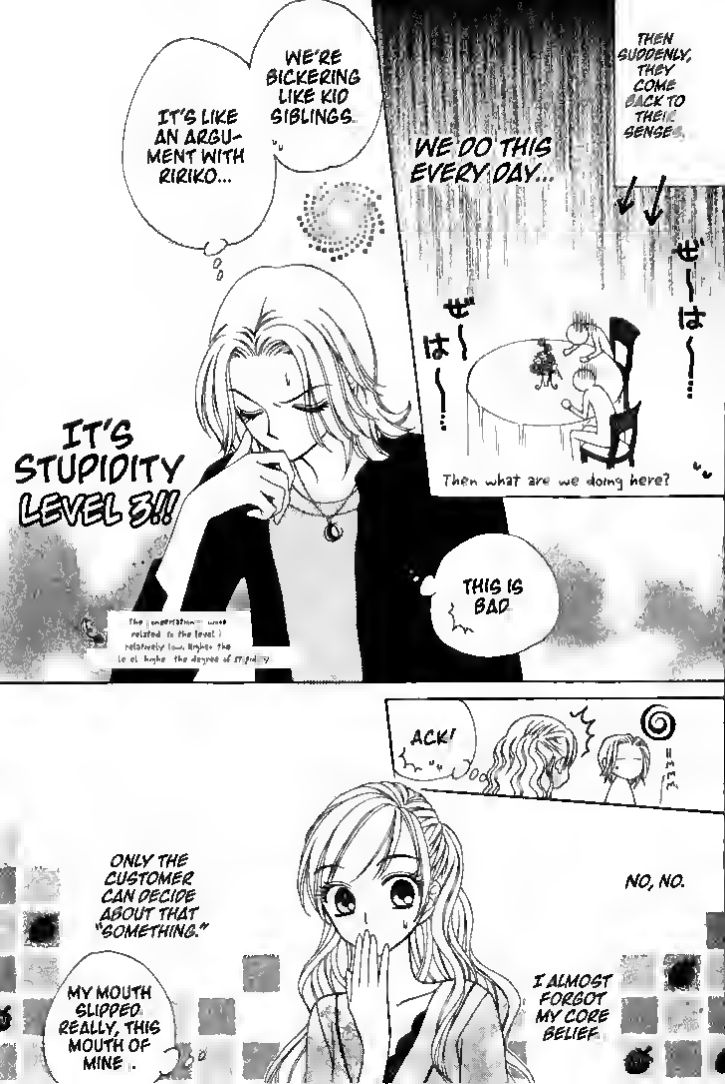
Episode 24

RIGHT HERE.
WE PICK UP WHERE THE LAST VOLUME LEFT OFF: THE MIDDLE OF OUR DATE
THE WORDS HAD FLOWED...
...AND THE CHEMISTRY HAD SIZZLED.

"HAD."
PAST TENSE

YOU KNOW ..
THAT SKIRT HAS EXCELLENT VOLUME!
IT'S RESTRAINED AND SUBTLE, BUT STILL A TRUE STAR-QUALITY DRESS!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
THE ABOVE-THE-KNEE CUT IS ADORABLE!!
BUT THERE'S SOME-THING MISSING!
10 MINUTES AFTER PANEL 2, PAGE 6.
WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY NEED? IT HAS FAB-RICATED PLEATS!
SOMETHING ELSE IS MISSING!
THAT'S NOT IT, THAT'S NOT IT!
AND THE RIBBON MAKES IT LOOK GIFT-WRAPPED
A HEATED DESIGN DISCUSSION


WE'RE BICKERING LIKE KIO SIBLINGS.
IT'S LIKE AN ARGUMENT WITH RIRIKO...
THEN SUDDENLY, THEY COME BACK TO THEIR SENSES.
WE DO THIS EVERY DAY...
ぜーはー
ぜーはー
Then what are we doing here?
IT'S STUPIDITY LEVEL 3!!
THIS IS BAD
ACK!
NO, NO.
I ALMOST FORGOT MY CORE BELIEF.
ONLY THE CUSTOMER CAN DECIDE ABOUT THAT "SOMETHING."
MY MOUTH SLIPPED. REALLY, THIS MOUTH OF MINE.

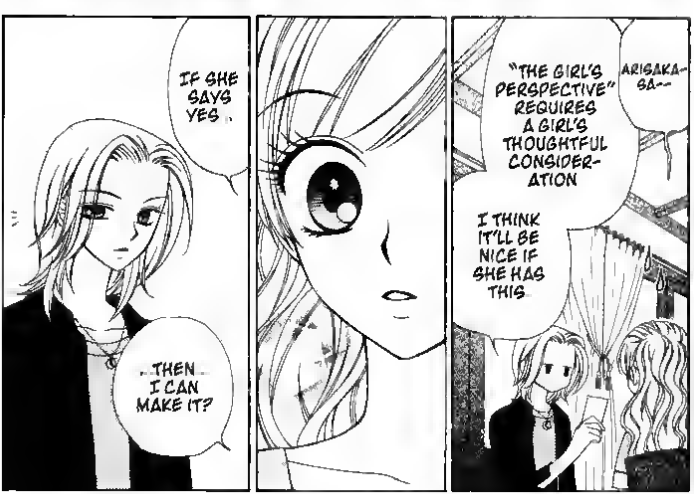
Impromptu sketch of Yukari's design
BUT ARISAKA-SAN'S DRAWING IS WONDERFUL.
Bolero coat (A)
Short gloves
Pleated
Just above the knee (A)
Height 5'1"
23 years old
He drew it so easily. Amazing!
"PARTY"..
SO IT'S A WEDDING PARTY WITH FRIENDS, HUH? I'D LIKE TO DO THAT SOME DAY.
Like an exquisite gown
HEY, ARISAKA-SAN, THIS IS A "CASUAL GET-TOGETHER CELEBRATION PARTY," RIGHT?
WILL SHE HOLD A BOUQUET?
YES.
THE WHOLE TIME?
THAT WOULD GET IN THE WAY
YEAH.
I like an after party
ABEHA?

What a relief!!
Angela imagine the bride
EMPTY HANDS ARE MELANCHOLY.
HUH?!
IT'S AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR A WOMAN..
If a commemoration. And with a new quality dress too, right?
. SO SHE'D OBVIOUSLY WANT TO LOOK HER BEST.
IT'S NOT A FORMAL WEDDING RECEPTION, BUT SHE NEEDS A PURSE
. TO HOLD A LITTLE MAKEUP FOR THE PARTY.
You'll touch up your makeup, right?
And her handkerchief
WHAT? A CELL PHONE TOO?!
The times they are a changin
IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF HER CELL PHONE FIT TOO.

MY PURSE TODAY HAS EVERYTHING I NEED.
Memo pad & pen
Lip gloss
Powder & oil control napkins
Handkerchief & tissues
cell phone
wallet
Terrific!!
Hand made?
Yay! Arataka-san. We've got food.
AND THAT CONCLUDES MY SELF-ASSERTION!!
Here you go
STARE
Are you nervous?
Excuse me
EXCUSE ME?
WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WHY DON'T YOU CONTINUE YOUR SELF-ASSERTION?
NOD
Y--
YOU WANT ME TO DRAW?
UM LET'S SEE
Eek

WRAP A RIBBON AROUND PLEATS THAT MATCH THE SKIRT, AND OH, IT MIGHT BE STRIKING.
IF THE RIBBON WAS JUST TINGED WITH COLOR
A ROUNDED SHAPE
IN THE SAME FABRIC AS THE DRESS, OF COURSE.
THE HANDLE WILL HAVE LARGE PEARL BEADS
Drawing by Ayeka
LIKE THIS.
Pearl beads
Big ones
Uneven ribbon

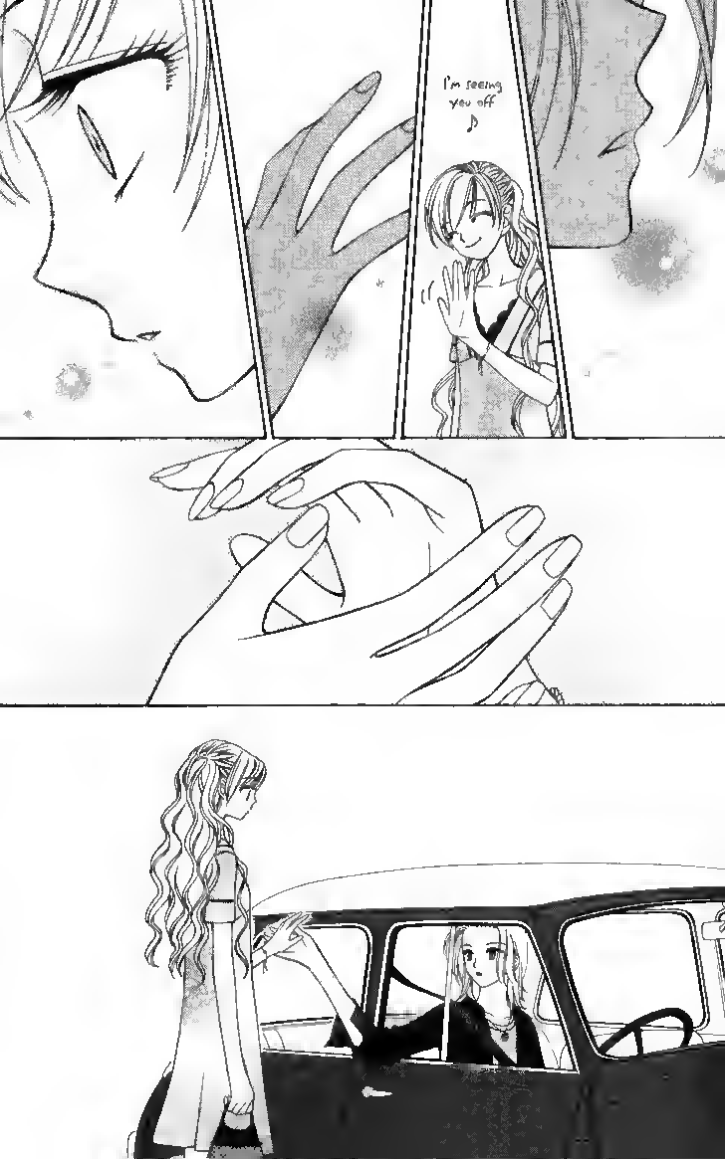
HA HA HA! THIS IS SO FUN. ONCE I START DESIGNING, I CAN'T STOP!
I'LL ASK THE CUSTOMER IF THIS IS ACTUALLY NECESSARY.
ぎょっ
WHAAAT?!
HEY!

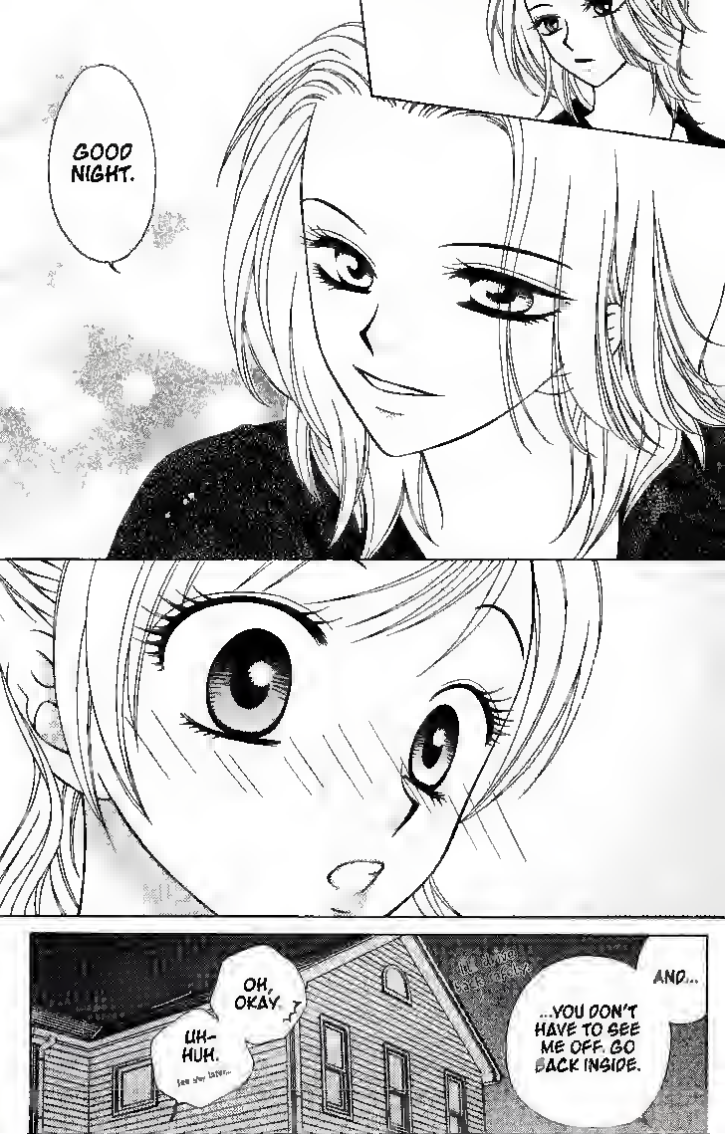

IF SHE SAYS YES
THEN I CAN MAKE IT?
"THE GIRL'S PERSPECTIVE" REQUIRES A GIRL'S THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION
I THINK IT'LL BE NICE IF SHE HAS THIS
ARISAKA-SA--

I HAVE HIS APPROVAL?
DOES THIS MEAN...
I THINK SHE'LL LIKE IT.
IN WHICH CASE WE'LL NEED YOUR HELP
Sort of.
YEAH. I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
I'M SO GLAD.
Let's eat before the food gets cold
I have more work to do.
I'm so happy♥
HER WORK-LOAD IS INCREASING
IS THIS MITSU'S CURSE?
SHE'LL PROBABLY END UP MAKING IT.
But I want to see it too.
Oh my gosh, this is so good♥

I HAD A GOOD TIME TODAY, ARISAKA-SAN.
UH-UH.
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THE DESIGN AT THE STORE?
YOU DREW IT FOR ME, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES. THAT'S A BETTER DEAL. ♪
Re-hee
I GOT STORIES AND A BEAUTIFUL DINNER.
Your treats too.
THANK YOU FOR A GREAT TIME.
YEAH.
End of August
AFTER YOUR POST-SUMMER BREAK PROFICIENCY TESTS, YOU CAN COME BACK TO WORK.
WOOOW, SUMMER BREAK IS ALMOST OVER.
Gah
I'LL DO MY BEST ON THE TESTS!!
BOOP

ARISAKA-SAN
BUT I HAVE NO EXCUSE TO KEEP HIM HERE.
HMM I HATE TO LEAVE HIM
Shut up
Don't hassle Kuramine-san while I'm gone
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS GIVING ME A RIDE HOME
GOOD NIGHT


I'm seeing you off ♪


GOOD NIGHT.
OH, OKAY.
UH-HUH.
AND...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE ME OFF. GO BACK INSIDE.

Hello ♪
It's Banri Hidaka 〜
How are you all doing?
Somehow summer passed by without me ever getting a chance to go outside. Yes, that's the way it always goes!

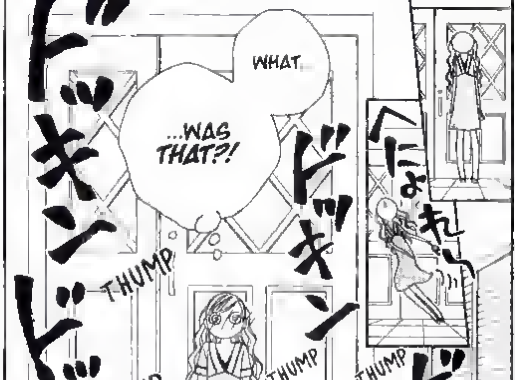
This year's fall and winter fashions are full of adorable, fluttery and fluffy clothing ♥

The thing is, this October, I, Hidaka, reached my 10-year anniversary of becoming a manga artist ☆ My heart is filled with joy It was possible only due to the help of those of you who read my manga It's also thanks to those people around me that support me Thank you so very much! I'd love to continue in this fashion, so please send me your best regards

Well, I will be delighted if you enjoy Hidaka's 31st manga,
*VB Rose 5* 〜

A friend gave me a bottle of 1945 wine, from the year I debuted, to celebrate my 10-year anniversary! I was surprised!! And very happy and touched. I wept. Thank you so very much

From France

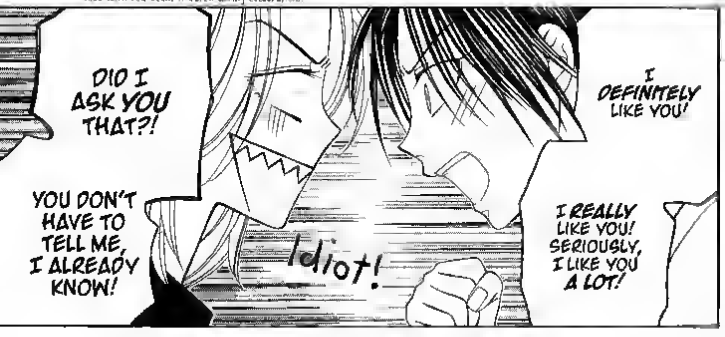


NO.
AGEHA-CHAN HATED THE RES-TAURANT?
SPARKS DIDN'T FLY?
SO MANY FLEW, WE GOT IN A FIGHT.
A FIGHT?!
BLANK.
WHAT'S WITH THE TOUCHY EXPRES-SION, YUKARI-KUN?
I'M NOT LIKE YOU!!
YOU TRIED TO KISS HER AMIDST THE SPARKS, BUT SHE STOMPED ON YOUR HEART?
HUMAN DESIRE...
..KNOWS NO LIMIT. IT SCARES ME.
IT'S NOT...
WAIT, IS IT?
NO, NO, NO, NO.

why
...
why
?
WHY?
WELL
...
IT'S A SECRET.
ぴく
NO.
DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU CAN ESCAPE MY PURSUIT?!
DON'T BE
NOW I'M CURIOUS!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING
WHYYY?! YOU'VE SAID SO MUCH ALREADY, YOU MAY AS WELL SPILL IT!
THEN LET'S HEAR IT.
にっこり
Loser.
In a good mood ♪

A PART OF ME WANTS HER TO.
...LIKE ME
HMM?
A...
.....

RIRIKO-SAN, BRING ON THE RED RICE*!!
Come on!
THIS IS WHY I HATE TELLING YOU STUFF!!!
It's your stepdad's departure!
HE MADE PROGRESS!!!
I'm so proud of you for finally making a move!
* Rice with red beans traditionally eaten during celebrations.


DID I ASK YOU THAT?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME, I ALREADY KNOW!
Idiot!
I DEFINITELY LIKE YOU!
I REALLY LIKE YOU! SERIOUSLY, I LIKE YOU A LOT!

DIDN'T YOU SAY LOVE IS A HASSLE?

SNICKER

I must avoid distraction
Oh really? How boo hoo
Concentrate

But I guess that's him.
HE SHOULDN'T TAKE EVERYTHING SO SERIOUSLY.
WHY ISN'T HE MORE CONFIDENT?
SIGH
BUT I'M SORRY FOR HER
IT'S NOT A HASSLE
...BECAUSE THIS IS HOW I FEEL
I'M SURE
...I CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE.
SHUT IT.
YOU HAVE TERRIBLE LUCK WITH WOMEN, BUT DO YOUR BEST ♡
I will always be your soul mate
YOU WERE ABANDONED BY YOUR MOTHER AND DUMPED BY YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
I GUESS AGEHA-CHAN HAD BETTER TRY A LITTLE HARDER. ♪
Then everything will be perfect?
This is beyond mere clumsiness!!
He's right because he can't.
Uh oh...
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
AGEHA-CHAN, HUH?
CAN'T HE TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER?
HUFF
You're teasing me ☆
PUFF
Where're you going?
To the bathtub!

I HOPE I CAN MAKE THE BAG.
I LOVE BEING ABLE TO HELP OUT.
SHOOT...
I...MIGHT HAVE GIVEN HER THE WRONG IMPRESSION.
It's so exciting
ARISAKA-SAN LET ME RIDE IN HIS CAR AGAIN TODAY.
IT WAS OUR FIRST DATE. BUT AFTER THE ATTACK..
HE'S ALWAYS TAKEN ME HOME WHEN I LEAVE LATE AT NIGHT.
I'M SUCH AN EXPENSIVE PART-TIMER.
I've never even called to ask for a ride
My hair?
Ouch!

"I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME FROM NOW ON."
ARISAKA-SAN ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES.
HE'S VERY SINCERE, THOUGH HE DOES THINGS HIS OWN WAY.
BUT HE'S KIND.

I just got home
I had fun today.
Good night

Yukari Arisaka

WHAT?! WHAT KIND OF TRAP IS THIS?!
NO, CALM DOWN, AGEHA.
NO, NO, HOW COULD I BE CALM AT THIS POINT?
I...I...
I am hopelessly caught in his trap !!!
Would my corpse be in this pose if my heart stopped right now?!
AM I AN IDIOT TO REJOICE OVER SUCH SIMPLE WORDS?!
She can't text him because she already said everything she had to say when they were parting ways.
I LOVE IT WHEN HE GIVES ME HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.
Argh! How should I reply? (^_^;)
HE CAN BE SO AMBIGUOUS
BECAUSE IN THE END, I REALLY DO LIKE HIM
BUT ARISAKA-SAN IS..
The ultimate question.
WHAT WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE END?!
PLOP
P.S.
(heart eyes)

"I TRUST IN YOUR SKILLS."
"GO FOR IT."
"YOU'RE THE ONLY PART-TIMER WE HAVE."
"I CAN MAKE IT?"
"I THINK SHE'LL LIKE IT."
WHAT AM I TO ARISAKA-SAN?

I HAVE A PLACE THERE AS A PART-TIMER..

..I THINK.

BUT THAT'S SEPARATE FROM HIS FEELINGS FOR ME.

IF HE FINDS OUT THAT I LIKE HIM, IT'LL GET AWKWARD AND I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE VELVET.

...ARISAKA-SAN DOESN'T DATE PART-TIMERS.

"DOES HE ALWAYS DUMP THEM?!"

"ALWAYS."

I FORGOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

I'M COMFORTABLE WITH HIM. WE HAVE FUN TOGETHER.

BUT...

...IF WHAT KUROMINE-SAN SAID WAS TRUE, THEN...

MAYBE I'D RATHER HAVE IT AS IT IS NOW, BUT...
WHAT WOULD I DO IF HE FALLS FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
. HOW LONG WILL IT STAY "AS IT IS"?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT I LIKE HIM...
I'M BEING GREEDY.
FOR NOW I JUST WANT TO BE CLOSE TO HIM.

# 2 - A

I NEVER IMAGINED A DAY WHEN I'D BE RELUCTANT TO SEE ARIGAKA-SAN.

I LIKE MAKING THINGS

MY NEGATIVE THINKING WAS GETTING ME DOWN

AND I LOVE MY WORK.

Oh is my cheerfulness returning?

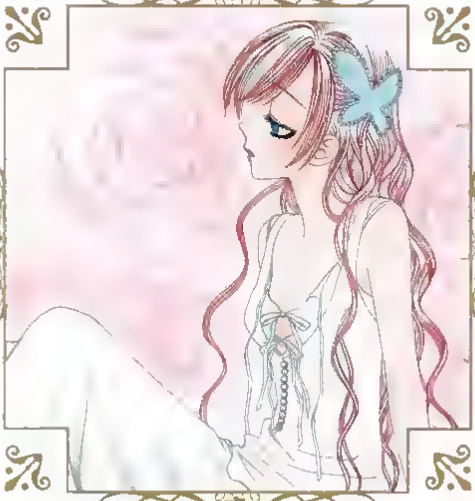
COME WHAT MAY!!

Leaving it to fate?

UM...
AHHHH!!
Back and forth...
Back and forth and back...
Back and forth, back and forth...
MAYBE IT'S HARD TO GO IN.
AHHHHH!!
Something fell out!
ROLL ROLL
CLANG

BEADS?
Ahhh
NOOO... IT'S SCRATCHED UP
They're huge
IS SHE...?
SORRY
I KNOW I WAS ACTING WEIRD...
Ahh
Thank you so kindly.
Here you go
UM... I'M SORRY I SURPRISED YOU.
?
SHE'S DEFINITELY A VELVET AFFILIATE!!!
BIG-BREASTED BEAUTY!!

# U.B. Rose



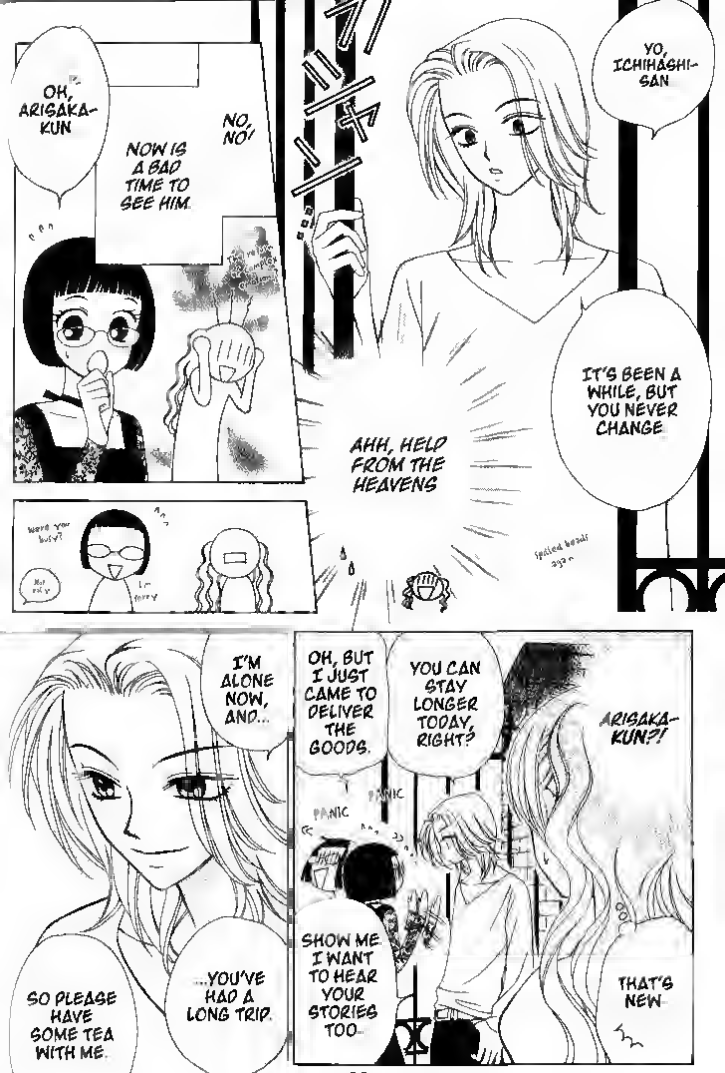
Banri Hidaka

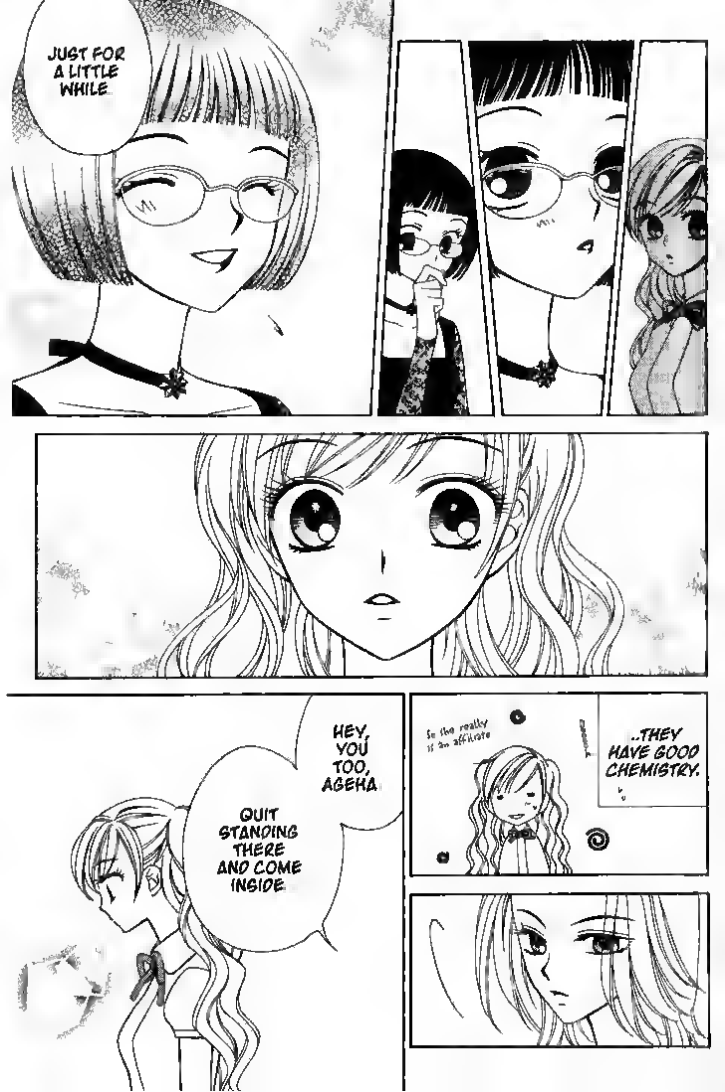
5

# Episode 25

a big-breasted beauty
a big-breasted beauty
a big-breasted beauty
THE LADY WHO I CARELESSLY SPOKE TO...
...IN FRONT OF THE GATE AT V & R...
It must be them, too.
What should I do? Who should I plain to?
UMMM...
WELL, IT SEEMS.

OH!
AHHHH, I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!
I BLURTED OUT MY HONEST IMPRESSION EVEN THOUGH I JUST MET YOU!
You do seem to know me.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN?
...THE LADY IS A WEIRDO.
In front of the gate.
That way
Realism
Probably because she's with Velvet.
DEFINITELY A WEIRDO!!
ACTUALLY, BANZAI FOR TOP BOOBIES!!!
Realism
Brava!
I'M NOT OBSESSED WITH BIG BOOBS!
UM... PLEASE DON'T MISJUDGE ME!
Oh no?
AND A FINE BODY IS CAUSE FOR A CELEBRATION!
I DO LIKE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS THOUGH!


OH, ARIGAKA-KUN
NO, NO!
NOW IS A BAD TIME TO SEE HIM.
YO, ICHIHASHI-SAN
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT YOU NEVER CHANGE
AHH, HELP FROM THE HEAVENS
Were you busy?
Not really
I'm sorry
I'M ALONE NOW, AND...
...YOU'VE HAD A LONG TRIP.
SO PLEASE HAVE SOME TEA WITH ME.
OH, BUT I JUST CAME TO DELIVER THE GOODS.
YOU CAN STAY LONGER TODAY, RIGHT?
ARIGAKA-KUN?!
PANIC
PANIC
SHOW ME I WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES TOO.
THAT'S NEW


JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE
..THEY HAVE GOOD CHEMISTRY.
So that reality is an affiliate
HEY, YOU TOO, AGEHA
QUIT STANDING THERE AND COME INSIDE

I GUESS I'M HAPPY TO SEE HIM AFTER ALL.
I'll make the tea.
Damn Mitto! Why do I have to make the tea!
ANYWAY, SHE'S MY CLASSMATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
I'M TSUYU ICHIHASHI. VBR HANDLES MY BEAD WORKS.
I SEE.
A BEAD ARTIST.
CLASS-MATE, HUH?

...I'M TOO EXCITED TO LEAVE!
BUT NOW THAT I'M BETWEEN TWO GORGEOUS PEOPLE...
EEEK! I MEANT TO QUIETLY DELIVER THE GOODS AND DISAPPEAR LIKE THE WIND!
JUST CALM DOWN. AND DON'T GO ANY-WHERE.
SHE IS BIZARRE.
キョドッ キョドッ
Y-YES, I WAS.
YOU WERE HURT?
WHAT?
IT'S FINE NOW.
SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY.
SO HOW IS YOUR INJURY?
HOW CAN YOU BE RUN OVER BY A CAR "JUST A LITTLE BIT"?! AND BREAKING A LEG IS A SERIOUS INJURY!
I WAS RUN OVER BY A CAR JUST A LITTLE BIT WHILE I WAS WALKING IN THE STREET, AND I WAS KIND OF IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A BROKEN LEG.
Tee hee.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME.
THANK YOU FOR VISITING ME EVERY DAY AT THE HOSPITAL, ARISAKA-KUN.
I'M HAPPY YOU MADE IT HERE SAFELY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE.
They're such good friends ♥
Hee hee
OR DOES HE HAVE SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR ICHIHASHI-SAN?!
IS ARISAKA-SAN THAT LOYAL? IS HE LOYAL?!
HOW COULD I HAVE FAILED TO NOTICE IT?!
WH-WHEN DID HE HAVE TIME TO DO THAT?!!
WAIT... EVERY DAY?!!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN, "I'M HAPPY YOU MADE IT"?
Ahhh!
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN LOOKING AT THE PICTURES..
..OF AGEHA-CHAN THAT YOU SENT TO MY PC EVERY DAY. ♡
MESMERIZED
How...that...possible?

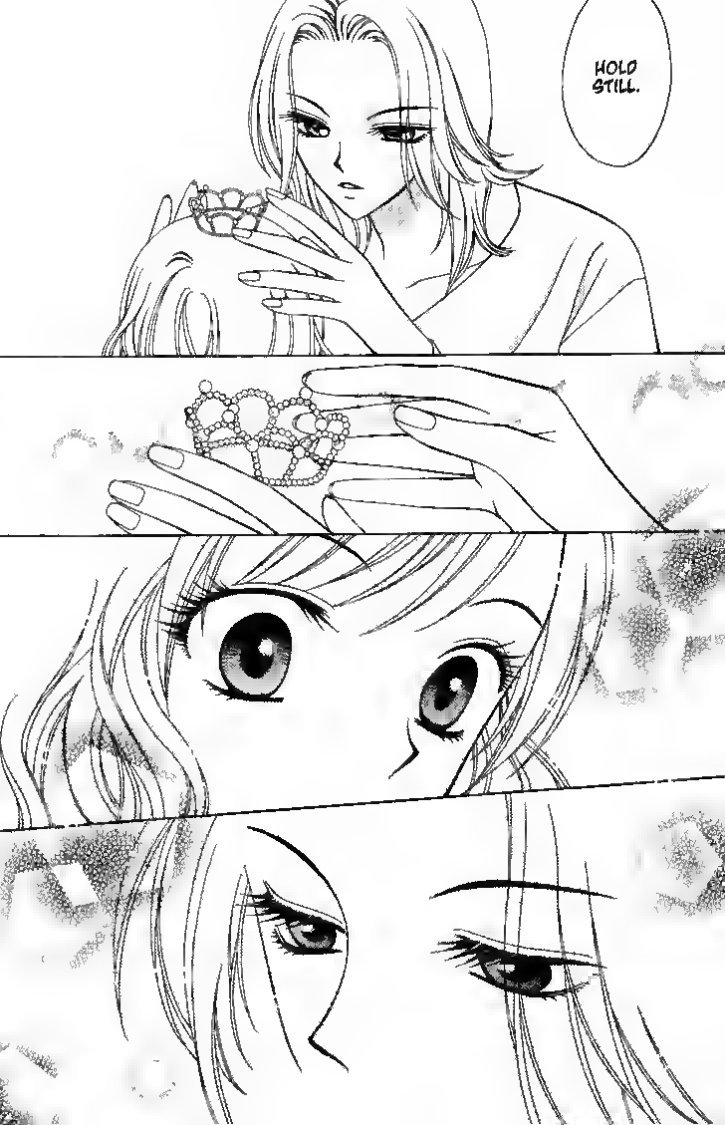
PICTURES
PICTURES?
Hey hee
SO MANY SETS OF BEAUTIFUL AGEHA PICTURES WERE ATTACHED TO YOUR E-MAILS OH, HOW MY HEART THROBBED!
I ALWAYS FOLLOW MY HEART WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LIKE THIS, SO I JUST HAD TO COME HERE TO SEE YOU!!
Good job, Arisaka-kun!
AGEHA-CHAN'S GORGEOUS WEDDING GOWN PHOTOS!
AND THE CANDID PIN-UP SHOTS!
WONDERFUL
I'M BAIT?!
OH, AND ARISAKA-KUN...
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING BEHIND MY BACK WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
YOU IDIOT!!
I HAD TO SHE HARDLY EVER COMES BY VBR
YOU KNOW THEY SAY YOU MUST UTILIZE EVERY-THING AND ANYTHING YOU CAN.
I also told her you were coming today!

THE COMBINATION OF YELLOW AND ORANGE WAS SO PRETTY.
I KEPT GAZING AT IT, IT MADE ME SO HAPPY.
I WAS SO SURPRISED TO SEE YOUR CUTE FLOWER BASKET WHEN I GOT HOME.
THANK YOU FOR SENDING FLOWERS, EVEN ON THE DAY I WAS DISCHARGED.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I'M GLAD YOU LIKED THEM.
ARISAKA-KUN?

The girl who given ride home
FLOWERS, HUH?
HE REALLY IS A DEDICATED PERSON
ICHIHAGHI-SAN
SHE SPENT TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH HIM
ARISAKA-SAN IS ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY WOMEN
SHE HAS A
CUTE SMILE
THROB
Doah
HASTE HASTE
Don't leave yet
Well, now that I've thanked you, I should get going
OH...
PLEASE GO AHEAD AND VERIFY THEM
OH, MAY I SEE THEM?
ARISAKA-KUN, HERE'RE THE ITEMS YOU WANTED
Gah
WHY ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SUCH UNNECESSARY THINGS, AGEHA? WORK! GO WORK!
UM, ARISAKA-SA

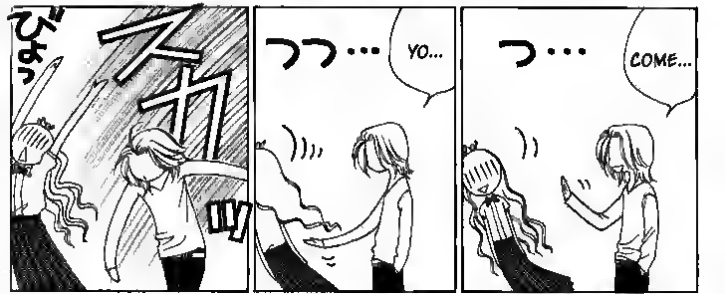
IT'S A SPARKLY PRINCESS SET.
WOOO
SO PRETTY!!
TH-THANKS.
Too good hair
ぴょこっ
In fact
IT'S AMAZING HOW SHE CAN MAKE THESE THINGS.
HEY, ICHIHASHI-SAN, WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
ドキドキ
IT'S AN EXPERIMENT HOW IS IT?
It's sparkling
ドキドキ
YEAH, IT LOOKS GOOD IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I IMAGINED.
Great!
I SEE
May I touch this?!
Go ahead ♥

AGEHA.
YES?
AGEHA.
TREMBLE TREMBLE
Aaaa, it's all messed up.
*staying still*
YES.
WHAAAA!-?!
ぐいぐい
BE QUIET.
JUST STAY STILL.
Hmm, the left one too.
Buuuch
What? that sudden move?
HOW RECKLESS.


HOLD STILL.

OOOOH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ICHIHASHI-SAN?
Hm...uniform ruins the effect but...
Whoaa...
I'm so glad I brought it!
ARISAKA-KUN, CAN I APPLAUD MYSELF?
I approve
AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
THAT CROWN LOOKS LOVELY ON YOU.
I CAN'T DO THIS.

I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING.
I JUST GOT A FANTASTIC IDEA FOR A PRINCESS DESIGN ☆
THAT'S WONDER-FUL.
BY THE WAY, MAY I TAKE A PICTURE?
AGEHA, AGEHA, COME OVER HERE FOR A SECOND.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE.
IF I STAY THIS CLOSE TO HIM, EVENTUALLY HE'LL REALIZE HOW I FEEL.
I REALLY CAN'T.
I must be crimson.
ドッ
ドッドッ
heart-beat
People who ate the "fruit of obliviousness."
Ha ha!
He decided without her consent


びょっ
スカ
つつ…
YO...
つ…
COME...

V B Rose is now available as a drama CD (sorry, available only in Japan ) The contents include "the other side" of Hajo High School's Cultural festival, and the story of the bowling rematch of Shizuya, who was ingloriously defeated in the bowling tournament in Volume 4, Chapter 22, when he dragged Yukari into the competitive fun. The aftermath of that story and others is included too
I got to watch the voice recordings. You all had wonderful voices It was lovely
Casting
Ayaka Nana Mizuki san
Yukari Takahiro Sakurai san
Mitsu Junichi Suwabe san
Manami Mao Yasuda san
Nagare Takashi Ohara san
Shizuya Takayuki Kondo san
Rui- Mitsuki Saiga san
Thank you to those of you who auditioned Also a big thanks to everyone who helped out!
After the taping, I was lucky enough to have dinner with Mitsuki Saiga-san, who plays Rei! It's not only her voice everything about Saiga-san is so cool! On top of that, she'd read my books before she was cast, which made me so happy
Her stories were so funny She is a great person
Saiga san
Saiga-san, please play with me again
KEEYOWWW!
GET BAAAACK HEEEERE!
ANYAKA-SAN IS WORK MODE
WHAT WILL RUNNING AWAY DO?
Dopf
WHOA THERE.
OH.

ARE YOU OKAY?
AGEHA-CHAN
KUROMINE-SAN
WELCOME BACK, MITSU
YUKARI-KUN, I'M BACK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE LEAPING INTO MY ARMS.
AAAGH! SEXUAL HARASSMENT!!
Nnnnnn~
YOU'RE CUTE WITH YOUR HAIR DOWN...
Hm?

ICHI-KASHI...?
THAT
THAT'S AMAZING, YUKARI-KUN.
HOW DID YOU GET HER HERE?

WHAT?! YOU'RE CONVINCED?!
What's that supposed to mean?!
OH...
HMMM?
Hey, hey!
YOU FORGOT YOUR CROWN!
WELL, I SHOULD GET GOING.
Toward the back door

EEK
ICHIHASHI-SAN IS DESPERATE!! HER WHOLE BODY IS OOZING AN AURA OF I-DESPERATELY-WANT-TO-ESCAPE!!!
SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY HERE...
WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND RELAX?
ゴゴゴゴ
ICHI-HASHI
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SIT DOWN?
NO, I'M...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SIT DOWN?
COULD ICHIHASHI-SAN BE ANOTHER VICTIM OF HIS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?!!
Oh..
AND SHE GOT EVEN TWITCHIER ONCE KUROMINE-SAN ARRIVED
HMM?

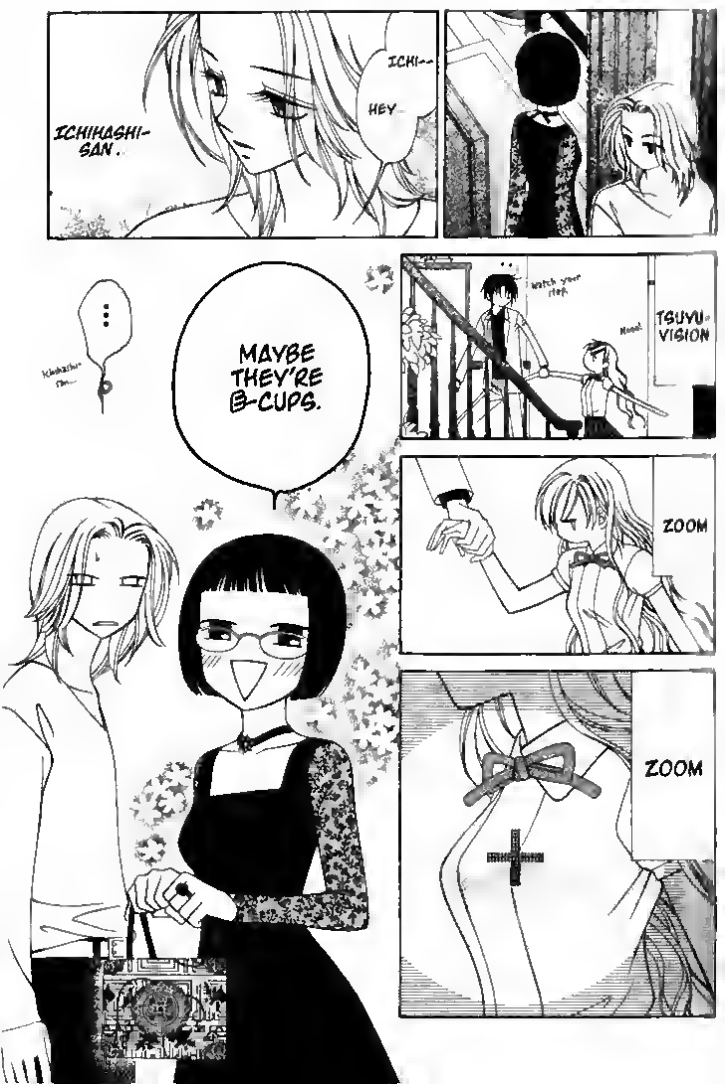
SITTING...DOWN
Distance
In the Corner
Her legs are hovering above the cushion.
The last bus is in the 8 o'clock range
OH!
I HAVE TO GO BEFORE THE LAST BUS LEAVES!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE TIME IF WE DRIVE YOU
If two hours each way like I did, how's the tea?
OH, THAT'S SMART SINCE YOUR DRIVING SKILLS ARE A BIT QUESTIONABLE
N-NO, I TOOK A TRAIN AND A BUS.
DID YOU DRIVE HERE?
I CAN EVEN RUN FAST.
Wanna see?
IS YOUR LEG ALL RIGHT NOW?
Y-YES. I'M A.
... QUESTIONABLE 23-YEAR-OLD
Maker no Shiro

Uhhhh... uuuum...
Ha ha ha! If you want me to drive you, you'll just say so.
SHOT DOWN
ARGH, I'M SUCH A DIMWIT!!
NO, I CAN'T PUT YOU OUT LIKE THAT.
I NEVER SAID I'D BE THE ONE DRIVING YOU BACK.
HEY, MITSU, CUT IT OUT.
ICHIHASHI-SAN NEVER COMES OVER BECAUSE OF YOU ACTING LIKE THIS.
EXCUSE ME, BUT WHO IS THAT SADISTIC GUY WITH THAT EVIL SMIRK ON HIS FACE?
IT'S MITSUYA KUROMINE-SAMA.
WHAT?
HMPH I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN
HUH?

THE TERRIFYING "MITSUYA KUROMINE-SAMA"
I FEEL LIKE I JUST WITNESSED SOMETHING CRAZY.
THUMP THUMP
THAT BLEW MY PROBLEM RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW.
IS THIS KUROMINE-SAN, OR MITSUYA-SAMA?
COME OVER HERE, AGEHA-CHAN.
I HAVE SOME WORK FOR YOU.
OH!
YES, SIR.
OKAY, OKAY, THE PEST WILL LEAVE
MITSU.
AGEHA-CHAN.
THUMP ドキ
THUMP ドキ
THUMP ドキ
THUMP
Phew
That's my Kuromine-san.
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT ME?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BOTHER WITH THIS NOW.
I'LL HAVE TO KISS YOU IF YOU KEEP GAZING AT ME LIKE THAT. ♪

YES, THANK YOU
BUT I'M LEAVING NOW
ABOUT ME...
ARE YOU OKAY?
ALL RIGHT
OKAY, OFF YOU GO.
MITSU, I'LL ESCORT HER TO THE STATION.
HOW SHOULD I FOLLOW UP WITHOUT REVEALING YUKARI-KUN'S FEELINGS?
HMM, IT SEEMS LIKE AGEHA-CHAN PAID ATTENTION TO WHAT I SAID.
WHISPER
KUROMINE-SAN...
YES, YES?
She shouldn't learn the truth from someone else.

IS ICHIHASHI-SAN ARISAKA-SAN'S EX-GIRLFRIEND?
Jonathan Black.
A-AGEHA-CHAN!!
COME-- JUST COME WITH ME.
WHINY
WHINY
WHINY
WHY IS EVERYONE SO LOVE-ILLITERATE?!
WHA...?
Because you said his last...
...girlfriend went to h-his school.
It's not just Yukari-kun!
WHERE SHOULD I EVEN BEGIN WITH THIS?!
It seems she has eaten the "fruit of obliviousness" as well.
What's going on?
Y-i-i-k


ICHIHASHI-SAN.
ICHI--
HEY
I watch your step.
Nooo.
TSUYU-VISION
...
Ichihashi-san...
MAYBE THEY'RE B-CUPS.
ZOOM
ZOOM

I FEEL LIKE WE DIDN'T GET ANY WORK DONE TODAY
I WONDER WHOSE FAULT THAT WAS
SNICKER
WHAT'S THAT?
NOTHIIING
SNICKER
TAP TAP
YOU IDIOT
THAT WAS A FIGURE OF SPEECH
WERE YOU TRYING TO TRIP ME UP..
.. WITH ICHIHASHI?

HUH?
Most stories' sidekick information!!
I'm only a part-timer!
Remember what I told you?
I really was!
...BY A LOT OF THINGS.
NO. I WAS SURPRISED
I'd meant to finagle myself into a life without responsibilities
It hurt later.
They don't even answer the phone (sometimes)
IT'S TOTALLY ABSURD!
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO DISCUSS IN PERSON, BUT THEY NEVER COME HERE!
...DON'T GO OUT ENOUGH!!
WHATEVER! THE FACT IS ICHIHASHI-SAN AND KANA...
THAT'S TRUE.
Ka ha ha
He always visits them
La di da.
..I THINK SHE'LL KEEP COMING
Y'KNOW, IF AGEHA-CHAN IS HERE .
YOU SEEM RELAXED, "MITSUYA-SAMA"
THAT'S A GOOD CALL.
What happened?
Isn't it?

SO MANY PEOPLE, SO MANY PROBLEMS
?
"THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS"
YOU'VE GOT ROBLEMS TOO.
Work mode deactivated
Oops?!
I DIDN'T HAVE A REAL CONVERSATION WITH AGEHA TODAY!
GAH!

# Episode 26

OBVIOUSLY...
...KUROMINE-SAN FOUND OUT HOW I FEEL ABOUT ARISAKA-SAN.
Instant replay.
AGEHA-CHAN...

ANYWAY, ICHIHASHI ISN'T YUKARI-KUN'S EX-GIRLFRIEND.
Sigh! I planted a seed of disaster
THAT WOULD BE A DISASTROUS COMBINATION
STOP STORING USELESS INFORMATION!!
I'M ONLY A PART-TIMER.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU EARLIER?
Wow, are you serious?!
Discussion topic: The case of the ex-girlfriend,
AND I'M THE TYPE WHO ENJOYS LIVING ON THE DANGEROUS BORDER BETWEEN RED AND YELLOW LIGHTS!!
EXCUSE ME, WHAT KIND OF COMPARISON IS THAT?
HMM?
Ichihashi walks
...ICHIHASHI IS THE TYPE WHO CARELESSLY WALKS THROUGH THE RED LIGHT WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING IT!!
...IF YUKARI-KUN IS THE TYPE TO CAREFULLY STOP AT A RED LIGHT....
Y'SEE ...
Yukari stop!
Gasp
OH, SO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'M SORRY I GUESS I JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE EX-GIRLFRIEND THING
.....
BLUNT
Hey!
I'M NOT QUITE SURE MYSELF.

I HATE MYSELF BECAUSE I FEEL SO PRESUMPTUOUS FOR ENVYING HER. SELF-LOATHING, SELF-LOATHING!
OR IS IT THAT HE REALLY NEEDS HER? IS SHE SO UNIQUE THAT HER SPECIALNESS PERVADES THE VERY AIR?
ARISAKA-SAN SEEMS TO CARE SO DEEPLY ABOUT ICHIHASHI-SAN.
IT'S JUST THAT...
It's just that?
The fragile heart of a girl.
HMM, THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.
EVERYONE TREATS ICHIHASHI THAT WAY. YOU CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS.
UMMM...
HOOONK
For real, isn't blood your nose?
MITSUYA-SAMA IS INVINCIBLE.
Hah! ♡
SO "MITSUYA-SAMA" DISAGREES?
SCRUNCH
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.

...MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T REALIZED...
...THAT THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU
SINCE YOU CAN'T SEE YOURSELF...
FROM A THIRD-PERSON PERSPECTIVE..
R--
REALLY?

I'M THE MAN WHO ACHIEVED WITH HIS OWN BARE HANDS THE POSITION OF "YUKARI ARISAKA'S BEST FRIEND"!
Viva me!!
Ha ha ha
I'M TELLING YOU THIS, SO THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!!
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
Ha ha ha ha ha
NHY IS HE LWAYS SO ONFIDENT?
She regained a fraction of her calm

HE WAS MORE OF A "LONE WOLF." (DO PEOPLE STILL SAY THAT?)
NO, HE HAD ACQUAINTANCES.
DID ARISAKA-SAN HAVE THAT MANY FRIENDS?
Middle schooler Yukari
IT TOOK A HERO LIKE MYSELF TO WIN YUKARI-KUN'S TRUST.
And that's how this story ends.
YAAAY!
Hero?

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON..
...WHO KEEPS AROUND PEOPLE HE DOESN'T LIKE.
HE'S ACTUALLY VERY CAUTIOUS.
BUT ONCE HE'S WELCOMED SOMEONE INTO HIS INNER CIRCLE..
HE CHERISHES THEM FOREVER.
TO BE EVEN CLEARER...
REMEMBER WHEN YUKARI-KUN WAS BRUSQUE WITH YOU?
HE EVEN THREW YOU OUT WHEN YOU SHOWED UP.
THAT'S TRUE!!
Hi-ya!
Kyaaa~
Confirming now to Thalia always is like heaven and hell.

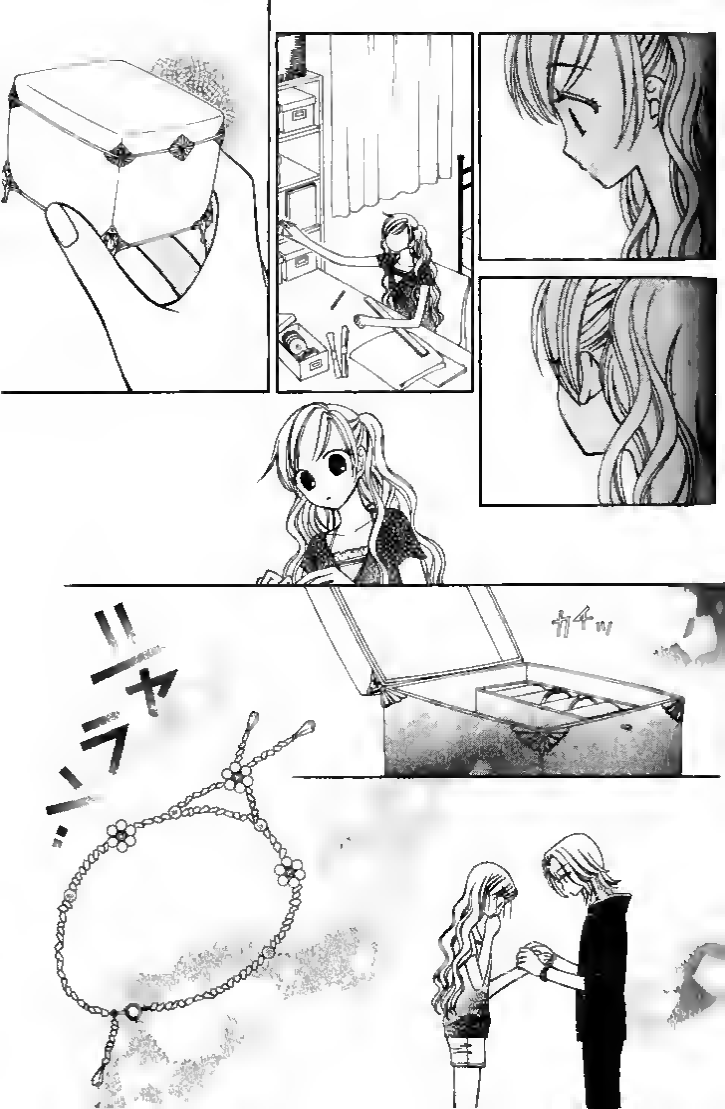
He's really nice wow!!!
Yeah...
SO GO AHEAD AND ADORE YUKARI-KUN TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
Together, we will form a Yukari-kun Love Alliance!
ALSO...
...WHEN I SAID, "BEING LOVED IS PROBABLY A BURDEN"..
IT'S NOT LIKE YUKARI-KUN SAID SO HIMSELF.
...THAT WAS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION.
SO...

...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO THINKS THAT "BEING LOVED IS A BURDEN"?
CHUCKLE
YES, THAT WAS MY THOUGHT.
?
?
?
PAT
I TOLD YOU.
... BEING A PART-TIMER IS IRRELE-VANT, RIGHT?
OH YEAH, I REMEMBER THINKING, "I'M SAFE!!"

HE'S ONLY CLUMSY WHEN IT COMES TO PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.
SO DON'T MISJUDGE HIM.
AND YOU, AGEHA-CHAN, STAY JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
WHAT...
...I LIKE ABOUT YOU IS THAT..
YOU DON'T HESITATE TO APOLOGIZE IMMEDIATELY WHEN YOU THINK YOU'RE IN THE WRONG
AND YOU'RE SO GENUINE WHEN YOU SAY "THANK YOU."
KUROMINE-SAN—

SO I WANT YOU TO...
...STAY FREE.
Ha.
IF I'M THINKING ABOUT IT, THAT PROVES THAT I'M NOT FREE.
She's jittery, so she's making a new bag (as an escape).
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY "FREE"

IS IT REALLY OKAY?
SHALL I OPENLY DISPLAY MY AURA OF LOVE?
Like my heartbeat playing aloud?
I SEE... SO I CAN STAY THE WAY I AM.
NEVER-ENDING CYCLE.
I WANT TO AVOID OUR RELATIONSHIP BECOMING AWKWARD!! I WANT TO AVOID THAT!!
AM I TOO CONSERVATIVE?
Gah!
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
BUT AVOIDING AND RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM...
WON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
"HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO...
...KEEPS AROUND PEOPLE HE DOESN'T LIKE."


シャラン

I WAS SO OVERWHELMED WITH MY OWN PROBLEMS THAT...
..IT TERRIFIED ME TO IMAGINE ARISAKA-SAN'S REACTION..
IF HE'D FIND OUT MY FEELINGS. BUT...
..I NEVER WONDERED WHAT ARISAKA-SAN THINKS OF ME NOW
"GOOD NIGHT."

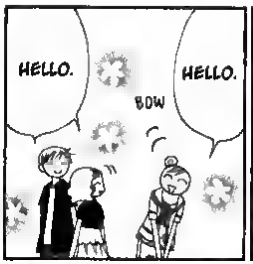
THAT SMILE SHOULD BE ILLEGAL.
OOOH, THIS IS THE INNER CIRCLE?!
BEING IN THE INNER CIRCLE IS FANTASTIC !!!
Squirming maiden.
ハァ
ハァ…

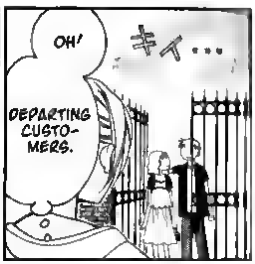
V·1
Am I too chipper?
HMM.
IT MIGHT BE... A LITTLE EMBARRASSING TO WEAR THIS AT WORK.
NO, NO! I REALLY LIKE THIS
...AND IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO JUST STARE AT IT.
wear it, wear it
MY PRESENT SELF...

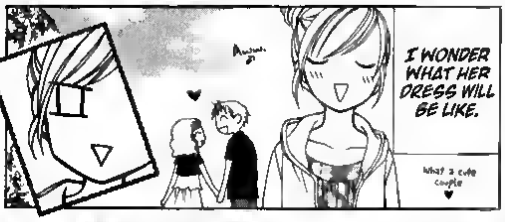
So, I was finally able to introduce them. Tsuyu-san the bead artist and Mitsuya-sama!

By the way, perhaps because I made the two main characters blond, I realized that most of the other characters have to be black-haired!! It takes so much time to draw!! I must be an idiot. Even for Tsuyu, I thought until the very last moment, "If I give her blond hair it'll be easier for me. But my mental image of her has black hair in a bob. That's one thing I can't change!!" And now this is where I end up. But I'm satisfied that I made it black. Although it takes... time ^^;

I've been receiving more and more handmade bead art from readers. Everyone is so kind, it makes my heart throb. Some people even made the bracelet that Ageha received from Yukari. It's so much fun to look at. ^^ An adorable heart-shaped creation of pink beads is one of my favorites. I'm such a lucky person. Thank you so much, everyone.♪



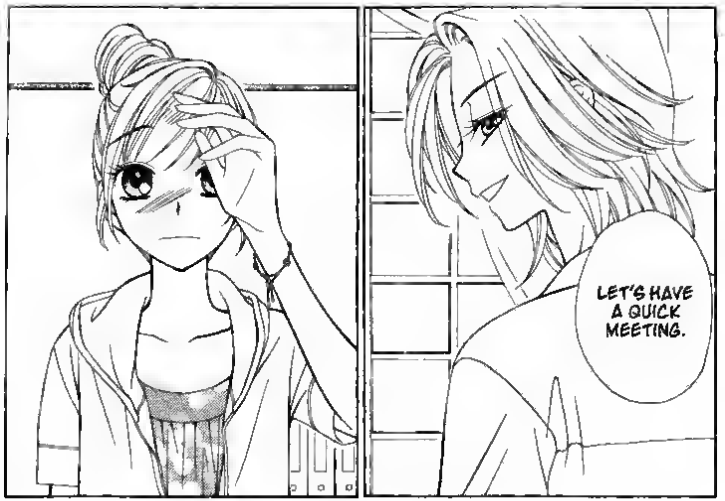



...LIKE A JACKHAMMER!!
LIKE A JACKHAMMER!!
MY HONEST HEART POUNDS.
IF YOU CALL MY NAME WITH A SMILE LIKE THAT....
Oh...my goooosh...
THE BAG IS APPROVED!!

I TOLD YOU SHE'D LIKE IT.
DOES THAT MEAN I GET TO MAKE IT?!
バーン
I WANT TO SET THE AGENDA, SO TELL ME YOUR SCHEDULE AS SOON AS YOU CAN
OKAY.
THAT CUSTOMER!!
'Like this' ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, ARISAKA-SAN, I'M SO HAPPY!!
Oh my gosh!!
YEAH, I'M HAPPY TOO.
I'll do my best!!
WHAT IS THIS, A TAILWIND?
DON'T GET LOST?! DON'T RUN AWAY?!!

OH.
IT...
IT'S MY FAVORITE.

I FELT LIKE IT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OUUUUCH!!
キャー!
キャー!
Ha ha ha
DON'T GRAB SOMEONE'S FACE JUST BECAUSE YOU FEEL LIKE IT!


LET'S HAVE A QUICK MEETING.

...I TRY TO CONCEAL MY FEELINGS..
...THE MORE UNNATURAL I FEEL.
OKAY.
THE MORE..
Oh, the next customer is coming
We'll meet later
MY "PRESENT SELF"...
.. IS PROBABLY CLOSER TO MY INNER SELF...
...AS GUARANTEED BY KUROMINE-SAN
IT'S OKAY TO BE HAPPY...
...WHEN I'M HAPPY.

Is this Mitsu's curse?
AUGH!
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE. I WAS ABOUT TO KISS HER ON THE FOREHEAD.
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
self-control
?
That cute little creature...
Please, go ahead and do it.
KNOCK
UMM, I'M HERE.
OH, ICHIKASHI-SAN, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

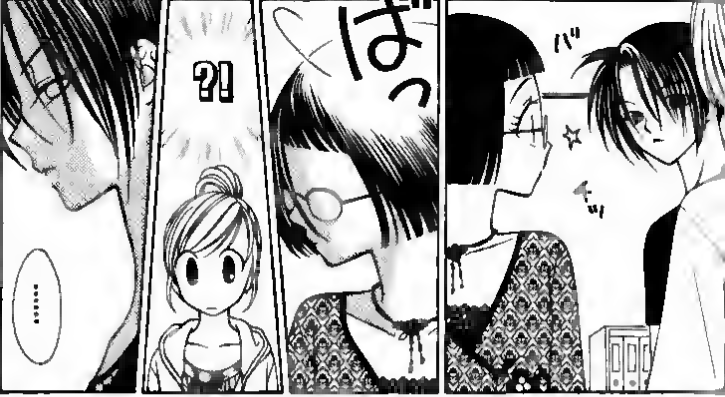
I'M STILL...
...TOO AFRAID TO SAY ANYTHING...
...BUT I'LL CHERISH THIS EMOTION.

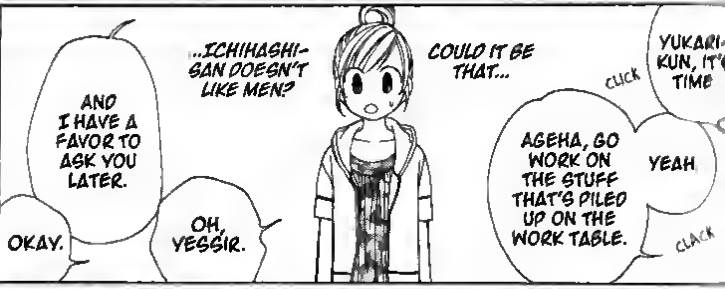
UMMM.
Oh, okay I'm sorry
Oh, and we'll start that thing I mentioned
SO ICHIHASHI-SAN WILL JOIN US FOR THE DIS-CUSSION?
I'D LIKE YOU TO LISTEN TO HER IDEAS FOR THE NECKLACE.
THE NEXT CUS-TOMER WILL BE HERE SOON.
OKAY
WELL, THIS IS ME
WHAT'S... GOING ON HERE?
ギゅ
OH.
...CHARGING.
SOMETHING'S BEING SUCKED OUT OF ME?!
TWINKLE
TWINKLE
Ahh!!

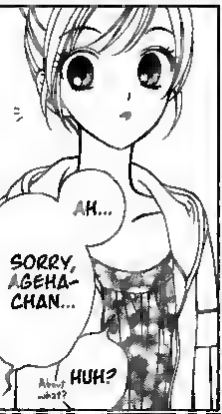
SQUEEEEZE
充電
Charging
What happens when you get charged?
Your brain gets rejuvenated. And your heart rate increases and allows you to work faster ♡
That's amazing
Wa...
What're you...?!
DON'T COPY HER!!
IT LOOKED LIKE HE CARED FOR HER MORE BECAUSE..
カ!!
I'M SO BAD I JUMP TO CONCLU-SIONS
I guess she's also in the circle.
IF I OBSERVE THEM WITH A CALM STATE OF MIND..
. HE DOES ACT NORMAL AROUND HER

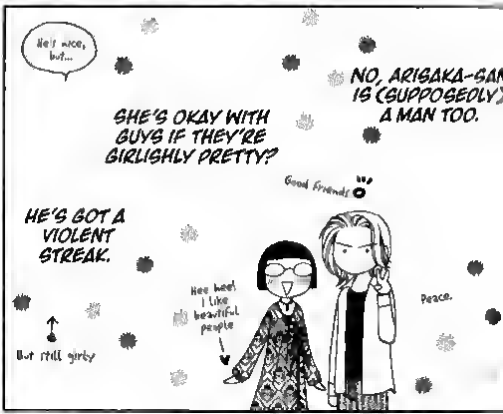
THAT'S WHY.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
!!
I WAS IN THE KITCHEN, DOING DISHES
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH ME BEING HERE?
YEAH.
I WAS HERE
Offensive power up
KU.. KURO KUROMI..
KUROMI-NE-KU..
Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-YOU...
Defense power down
BUT WE ONLY HAVE 100% CONCENTRATE JUICES
Health condition
NO..
YOU GET A FEVER WHEN YOU DRINK 100% JUICE, DON'T YOU?
YOU'D PREFER SOMETHING COLD?
SHOULD I GET YOU SOMETHING WARM TO DRINK?
N-NO.
REALLY? YOU LOOK PALE
She can't turn back.

Mitsuya-sama has descended to Earth.
MITSU.
WHY ARE YOU BULLYING HER?
WHY?
OR DO YOU WANT A FEVER?
UHM...
NO.
...WITH THAT EVIL LOOK?
ARE YOU GOING TO GREET CUSTOM-ERS...


?!
ばっ
!!"


...ICHIHASHI-SAN DOESN'T LIKE MEN?
COULD IT BE THAT...
YUKARI-KUN, IT'S TIME
CLICK
AGEHA, GO WORK ON THE STUFF THAT'S PILED UP ON THE WORK TABLE.
YEAH
CLACK
AND I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU LATER.
OKAY.
OH, YESSIR.


AH...
SORRY, AGEHA-CHAN...
HUH?
About what?


He's nice, but...
SHE'S OKAY WITH GUYS IF THEY'RE GIRLISHLY PRETTY?
NO, ARISAKA-SAN IS (SUPPOSEDLY) A MAN TOO.
Good friends!
HE'S GOT A VIOLENT STREAK.
Hee hee! I like beautiful people
Peace.
But still girly

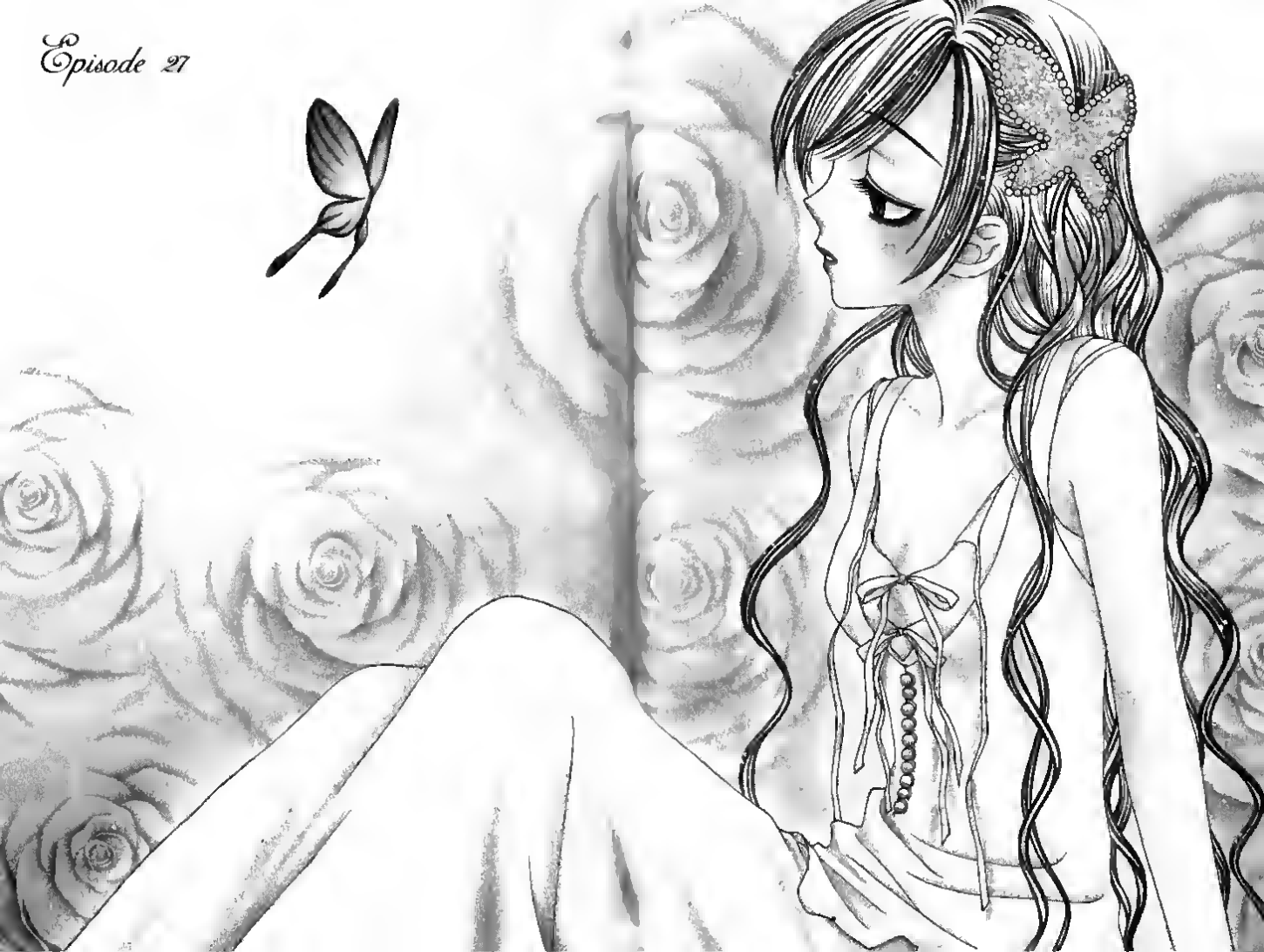
IS MY FACE RED?
SO THIS MEANS...
AH, ONCE THIS HAPPENS IT TAKES A WHILE TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.
What should I doooo?!
Erythromania
UH... YEAH
DOES THIS MEAN...?
Hmm... Sweet
SHE DOESN'T DISLIKE HIM--IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE?!
I was careless.
I WANTED TO...
AVOID EYE CONTACT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

# Velvet Instruction Manual 13

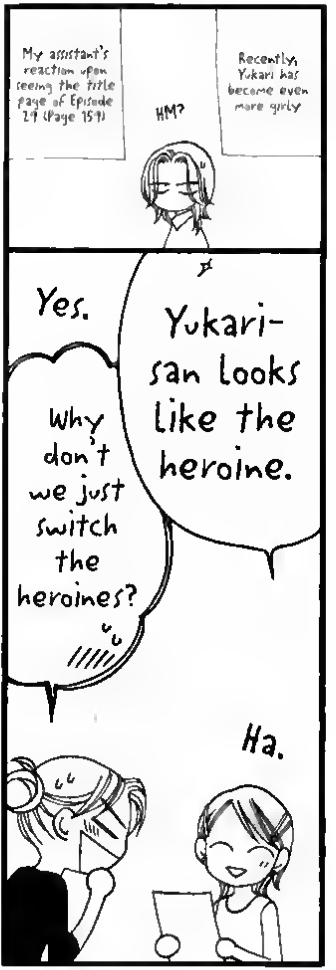
I love hearing about my assistants' everyday adventures
Hitomi-san, did anything fun happen before you came to work today?
I didn't go outside much.
Are you my secret twin?
Hee hee
Hahahaha!
You wouldn't want to be in the same category, eh?
?!
I really get out often.
Blunt!

We plan on going out together in the spring & I can't wait♪

Episode 27



# Velvet Instruction Manual 14


My assistant's reaction upon seeing the title page of Episode 29 (Page 154)
HM?
Recently, Yukari has become even more girly
Yukari-san looks like the heroine.
Yes.
Why don't we just switch the heroines?
Ha.
Good luck, Yukari!
Sweeeeet

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE...

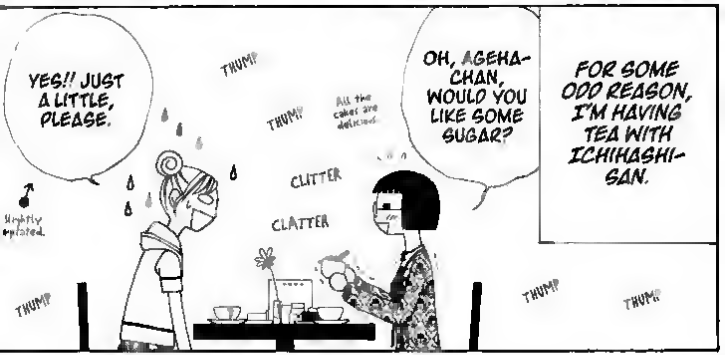
...SOMETIMES YOUR HEART HURTS...

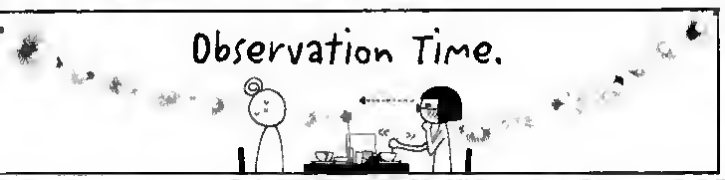
.. AND IT'S SO AGONIZING THAT YOU WANT TO BURST INTO TEARS.

BUT EVEN THE SMALLEST THING CAN BRING YOU HAPPINESS.

IT'S COMPLICATED BUT SIMPLE.

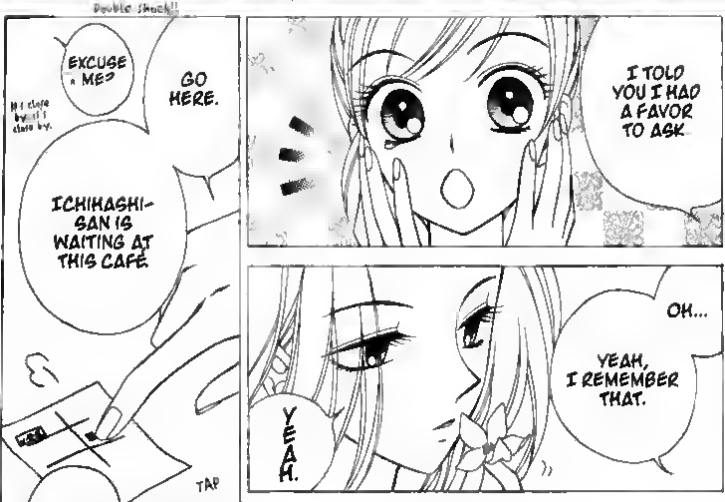
PERHAPS ALL THESE EMOTIONS ARE IRREPLACEABLE AND PRECIOUS.


YES!! JUST A LITTLE, PLEASE.
THUMP
THUMP
All the cakes are delicious.
OH, AGEHA-CHAN, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME SUGAR?
FOR SOME ODD REASON, I'M HAVING TEA WITH ICHIHASHI-SAN.
Slightly agitated.
CLITTER
CLATTER
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


Observation Time.

20 MINUTES AGO.
AGEHA, CAN WE TALK FOR A MOMENT?
ARISAKA-SAN, ARE YOU DONE WITH THE MEETING?
YEAH
WHAT WAS IT THAT I WITNESSED A COUPLE HOURS AGO?
は?
IS MY FACE RED?
UH YEAH
SHE DOESN'T DISLIKE HIM--- IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE?!
I WANTED TO AVOID EYE CONTACT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
MITSU WENT TO ROSA TO CARRY SOME THINGS FOR RIRIKO.
OH? ARE YOU ALONE?
WHAT ABOUT ICHIHAGHI-SAN?

WHAAT?!
SO YOU CAN LEAVE FOR THE DAY.
Why?!
The flowers are pretty.
WHAAT?!!
BYE-
SHE'S GONE.
SHE TOOK OFF?!
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER SHE TURNED RED.
The two people of interest are not here.


Double shock!!
EXCUSE ME?
GO HERE.
He's right here! I'm right here.
ICHIHASHI-SAN IS WAITING AT THIS CAFÉ.
TAP
HUH?
What do you mean, "waiting"? I thought she already left??
I TOLD YOU I HAD A FAVOR TO ASK
OH...
YEAH, I REMEMBER THAT.
YEAH.

Kyaaa!
I'll leave the rest to you.
ICHIHASHI-SAN WANTS TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S?

Bee bee!
Ha ha!
Ha ha!
Hee hee
A dazzling world of fantasy

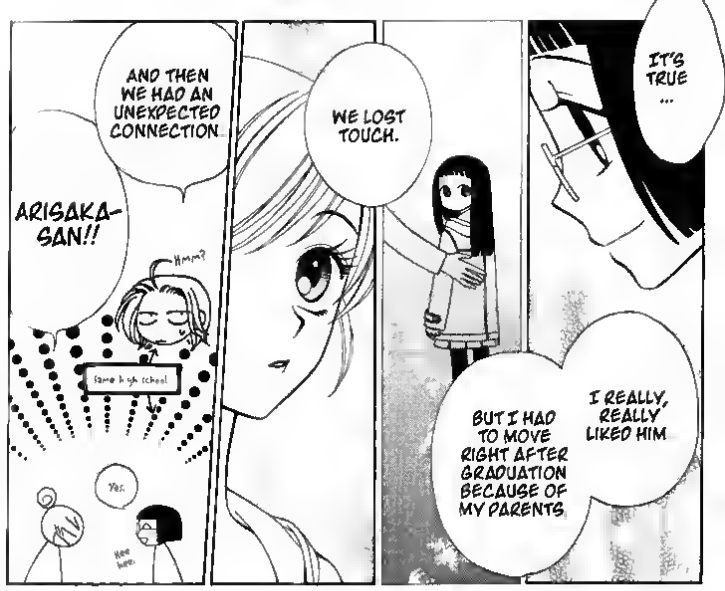
AND SO WE'RE HERE.
How much sugar did you put in?
CLITTER CLATTER
Um, um, I recommend the cheesecake tart and the classic matcha chocolat. The seasonal fruit cakes are good too.

I SEEM TO HAVE A DIFFERENT TEMPO FROM EVERYONE ELSE
I HAVE TROUBLE EXPRESSING WHAT I THINK.
THE ONLY THING I'M GOOD AT IS WORKING WITH BEADS
AN ADULT ASKING FOR WEIRD FAVORS LIKE THIS
I'M SCARING YOU, AREN'T I?
WHAT?
カチ
Mostly through e-mail
BUT WHEN I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM ARISAKA-KUN..
.. I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU
In this is the rumored bunny in the room
Ooh, what a cute boy.
PC
Working
I DECIDED TO GO VISIT V.B.R ONCE MY BROKEN LEG HEALED
What a beauty!!
The pict vas of Ayaka that vasvas sent to the hospital.
GUSH
Hospital

I THINK PEOPLE BECOME FRIENDS WITHOUT NOTICING IT.
IF WE SAW EACH OTHER OFTEN AND GOT ALONG WELL...
..WE WOULD HAVE AUTOMATICALLY BEEN FRIENDS
I MEAN ...
UH, WELL, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING SUCH A WEIRD FAVOR
SUDDENLY ASKING YOU TO BE MY FRIEND LIKE THIS
AND IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD TALK ABOUT ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS.
I'D... . LIKE TO SEE MORE OF YOUR BEAD WORKS

OH...
THANK YOU.
SHE REALLY IS CUTE.
OH, YES.
DID YOU LEAVE BECAUSE OF KUROMINE-SAN?!
The answer is also straightforward.
直球。
Direct.
WHAT DOES A SWEET GIRL LIKE HER SEE IN KUROMINE-SAN? HE EVEN BULLIES HER.
Hmm?
Oh, oh, I think we're getting closer
THROB
I think I like you...
Oh my

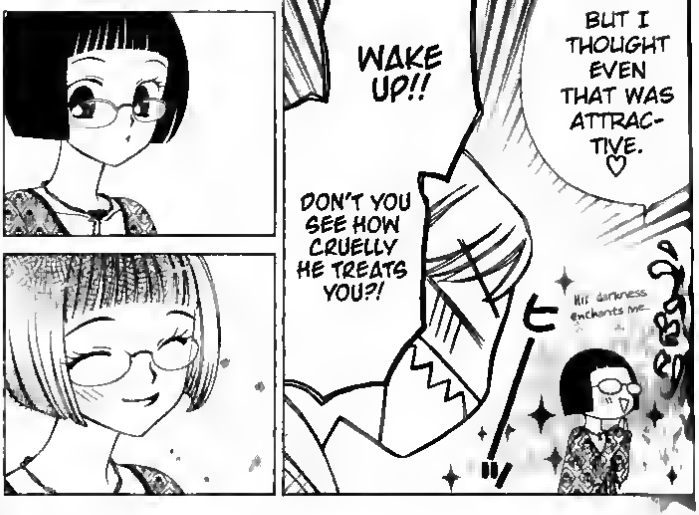
もーいいや
Taking the plunge
聞いちゃえ。ぐ
WHY DO YOU LIKE KUROMINE-SAN?
!!
UMM
KUROMINE-KUN AND I WENT TO THE SAME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
Great! I recommend that one too.
Um, that book was really good.
IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT KUROMINE-KUN WAS EARNEST AND MATURE.
HE WAS A VERY NICE STRAIGHT-A STUDENT.
AND WE WERE PALS BACK THEN.
WHAAT?!
NO WAY!! NO WAY!!
Yukar was at a different elementary school
He lived in another district


IT'S TRUE ...
I REALLY, REALLY LIKED HIM
BUT I HAD TO MOVE RIGHT AFTER GRADUATION BECAUSE OF MY PARENTS
WE LOST TOUCH.
AND THEN WE HAD AN UNEXPECTED CONNECTION
ARISAKA-SAN!!
Hmm?
Same high school
Yes.
Hee hee

WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO KUROMINE-KUN AS ARISAKA-KUN'S FRIEND...
...I WAS AMAZED.
I'D NEVER IMAGINED THAT WE'D MEET AGAIN.

I WAS WORRIED THAT WE'D NEVER AGAIN TALK LIKE WE USED TO
BECAUSE I'D MOVED AWAY WITHOUT A WORD..
AND ALSO ABOUT WHAT HE THOUGHT OF ME
ひゃ Ahhhhh!
Is it the real him?!
It's real?!
What are you doing behind me, Ichiharu-san?
OH MY GOSH.
EMBARRASSINGLY, I THOUGHT, "THIS MUST BE FATE!"
OH MY GOSH, EXACTLY.
It's not a dream?! It's like the Bon festival
And New Year's Day on the same day.
AND THEN...
ひぇ...
ひぇっ
Go...

Kuromine fan in her memory
ICHI-HASHI ...
...YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
-Sha ka ka-
WHAT WAS THERE WAS A KUROMINE-KUN WHO HAD FLOWN TO SOME UNKNOWN WORLD...
UGH.
Ever since then I get nervous every time I see h in and always act weird.


WAKE UP!!
DON'T YOU SEE HOW CRUELLY HE TREATS YOU?!
BUT I THOUGHT EVEN THAT WAS ATTRACTIVE. ♡
Ill darkness enchants me.

You can shop by yourself?
A new bag?
I-it was a gift
...BUT I'M GLAD TO BE WITH HIM AGAIN
...MAY THINK I'M BLIND...
YOU.

AT LEAST HE DOESN'T IGNORE ME.
SO I'M HAPPY
ARISAKA-KUN IS A CLASSMATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND A GOOD FRIEND.
HE TOOK CARE OF ME IN SO MANY WAYS.
WHAT A WASTEFUL MISCONCEPTION.
AT FIRST I MISTOOK YOU FOR ARISAKA-SAN'S EX-GIRLFRIEND
I'M SORRY.
HOW NOBLE OF HER.
WHAAAAT?!
BOW

I SEE. SO YOU LIKE ARISAKA-KUN.
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER.
YOU'RE INTUITIVE ABOUT WEIRD THINGS.
WELL, SINCE I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING ABOUT MYSELF...
OH...

That concludes this volume's heart-warming story.
SAKASHITA-SAN, YOUR BROTHER IS CALLING FOR YOU
He's cute
It's Sakashita kun the first year
Look look
Wow
DID YOU KNOW?
He's good with older ladies
THE SECOND AND THIRD YEAR GIRLS ARE CRAZY ABOUT YOUR BROTHER
IS THAT SO?
NAGARE?
MAMORU. CAN WE TALK FOR A BIT?

I went to my best friend's wedding ♡
They're a great couple
Hagy-kun and Uchida
It was a wonderful ceremony. Uchida was beautiful in her wedding dress, so I took a bunch of photos. As I was shooting from many different angles, my friend said...
You noticed?!
Hey, are you using us as material for your work?
Ehh, take as many as you want
Too late!
Speaking of which, the first time I met Hagy-kun, the groom, was that night when I met Uchida and Makimya for the Everyday Heaven Volume 4 when I came back home, I put a jacket over my PJs to relax
Ding-dong
Who is that?
Next time, call first!
Nice to meet you.
He could be wanted by the angel side, so we decided to stop by.
Hidaka-san's car has an unnecessary turbo plus manual transmission. Thanks to that first meeting, when I saw him for the second time at the ceremony, he said, "You look kind of different because when I saw him I had no makeup on, and I was in PJs and glasses.) Anyway, congratulations to you both. I hope you share a long and happy life together ♪

ペコリ

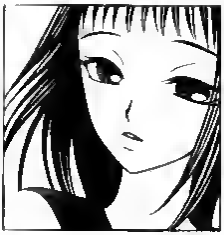
Hee hee!
BECAUSE I DID A GOOD JOB DISCIPLINING HIM
She says it like it's nothing!!
Okay I win
JOKER
You left us in the dark.
Playing old maid.

I SEE A YOUNGER BROTHER WITH A PERSONALITY SHAPED BY HAVING THAT SORT OF OLDER SISTER.
YOU THINK SO?
HE'S SO EASY-GOING.
THOSE TWO ...
...HAVE SUCH DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES.
He's a good kid.
You've a poor judge of character.
HUH?

BUT I BET THE ONE YOU HAVE YOUR EYES ON IS THE PERSON ON THE RIGHT.
AKIYOSHI-SAN IS AS HANDSOME AS THE RUMORS SAY.
HE SEEMS SMART TOO.
RIGHT, KUROMINE-SAN?

HE SEEMS FUN TO PLAY AROUND WITH.
OH, CAN YOU TELL?
I told you.
Ah-choo!
SHE'S BRINGING TWO GUESTS.
UM...
I HEARD AGEHA-CHAN IS COMING TO OUR SCHOOL'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
She sent me a text
SO, WHAT'S UP?

I'VE BEEN...
...WANTING TO ASK, BUT...
AS OF RIGHT NOW, THAT HAS NO EFFECT ON ME WHATSOEVER.
DON'T YOU THINK I'M AT A HUGE DISADVANTAGE?
バッサリ
I SEE.
SO... ARISAKA-SAN IS COMING TOO.
..WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
MAMORU.. DO YOU KNOW THE WORD "MISCOMMUNICATION?"
YEAH, I'M NOT AN AIRHEAD
ﾌﾌﾌ
I'M FREE TO LIVE AS I PLEASE



IF AGEHA-CHAN BE-COMES YOUR BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND...

...YOU'LL GET EVEN CLOSER TO HER.

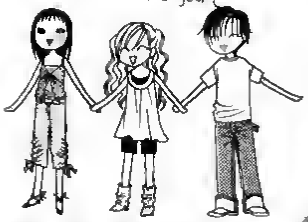
As I persistent for a change

THEN THINK ABOUT IT

THERE ARE TWO DOWN-SIDES TO THAT.

Good friends

And the situation remains unchanged.



I DON'T LIKE THIS "FREE TO LIVE AS I PLEASE" THING.

LIFE REQUIRES ONE TO CONSIDER EVERY POSSIBLE OUTCOME

I LOVE MY FREE-DOM.

Hah hah

WHY DO YOU ASSUME WE'D BREAK UP?

What a horrifying scenario.

IN ADDI-TION TO THE INFRINGE-MENT UPON MY EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN OF AGEHA.

...IT MIGHT GET AWKWARD BETWEEN US IF YOU BROKE UP

THAT WOULD HURT ME DEEPLY.

I GUESS I SPENT TOO MUCH TIME ENJOYING BEING HER CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
DON'T IGNORE AGEHA'S FEELINGS
V·B
Incoming message
WHAT'S WRONG, YUKARI-KUN?
YOU LOOK HAPPY BUT CONFUSED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT.
BECAUSE I'M A YUKARI FANATIC.
Cut it out
YOU CAN READ MY MIND, CAN'T YOU?
Of course.
I AM ALL-KNOWING.
Ooh, how creepy.
IT'S A TEXT FROM AGEHA.
Texting her back
"Wanna go to the mall alone with Mitsu" 2m
SHE SAYS SHE'S ALMOST HERE.
I SEE.
A text, huh? "o"
AGEHA-CHAN...
...ONLY TEXTS YOU.
HUH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HOW...?
NAAAH, THAT'S COOL, THAT'S COOL.
SO HOW'S IT GOING?
Must I tell you?
You guys taking it easy?
SHE DIDN'T TEXT ME AT THE COMPANY RETREAT.
IT CAN TOO.
THAT CAN'T BE.
REALLY?
HOW'S IT GOING...HUH
I EVEN ENJOYED...
WELL, I ASKED HER OUT TO DINNER AND MADE HER A BRACELET.
...DRIVING HER HOME.
Oh my yuki
HER REACTIONS ARE ALWAYS SO HONEST, SO...
SO IT'S BEEN GREAT FOR ME...
Ohh, I don't even want to hear it.
YOU DON'T LOOK IT.
HMM? IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE BEFORE SUMMER BREAK.

It's my favorite
NO, WELL...
WHEN I'M TALKING TO AGEHA...
...THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I'M CRAZY ABOUT HER.
THERE REALLY ARE.
THEN WHY HOLD BACK?
BUT...
"BUT"?!
There's still something bothering you?
Go for it, man
I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO HER.
Hmm?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO AS YOU PLEASE? CAN'T YOU TELL BY LOOKING AT HER?
HUH?
...is not always kind!!
Changing yourself for another...
He can't stand this anymore

THIS IS HOPELESS.
THIS GUY'S DOOR TO LOVE IS JAMMED HALFWAY
He's so close
Hmm
The store is Ayaka.
HELLOOOO
You guys really are close
AGEHA-CHAN
HEY, YUKARI-KUN...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S LIKE "THE BLUE BIRD"?
How random
THAT FAIRY-TALE?
"THE BLUE BIRD IS CLOSER TO YOU THAN YOU THINK" THING?
I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON

HUH?
I ALREADY HEARD FROM MAKOTO-KUN.
DON'T YOU LIKE SWEET THINGS, KUROMINE-SAN?
MY SISTER MADE SOME FOR US.
DO YOU LIKE FLAN, ARISAKA-SAN?
I BROUGHT SOME FOOD
Ta-da
AGEHA-CHAN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK ME?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BELOW MAKOTO-KUN AT HIS HIGH SCHOOL.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
I JUST HEARD A SECOND AGO!!
I was surprised.
THE DUE DATE IS IN OCTOBER, RIGHT?
YEAH, IT'LL BE BORN SOON.
He'll be Mako-chan* for a little while
MY SISTER IS BACK AT HOME RIGHT NOW.
SHE EVEN BROUGHT MAKOTO-KUN ALONG.
IT'S AMAZING SHE'S SO BUSY NOW.
* Mako-chan is a character from the cartoon Sazae-san, who lives with his wife and her family.
PEOPLE CHANGE.
I regretted that slightly, remember?
Ha...
YOU USED TO BE SO ANGRY ABOUT IT, BUT LOOK HOW CHEERFUL YOU ARE NOW.
YEAH, THAT IS AMAZING.

...I GROW EVERY DAY...
...YOU NEVER EXPECTED.
YOU REALIZE A LOT OF THINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN YOUR LIFE CHANGES IN WAYS THAT
I STILL HAVE A LOT OF FLAWS, BUT...
...AND IMPROVE EVERY DAY.
I'M A VERY POSITIVE PERSON RIGHT NOW.
SOMEONE I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T LIKE TURNED OUT TO BE SOMEONE I DO LIKE.

I'M GOING TO ROSA TO RETURN A CATALOG
LET ME BORROW YOUR REFRIGERATOR
I'm y'know
CLICK
It looks delectable
ARIGAKA-SAN
ICHIHASHI-SAN IS SO CUTE
WHEN DO YOU THINK I'LL SEE HER.?

RIRIKO USED TO HAVE A CAT.
IT WAS KIND OF DIFFERENT--LIKE YOU.
Meow
PURR PURR
What do you mean by different?
AM I NOTHING BUT A PET TO YOU?!
Meow

IS HE CLOSE ENOUGH...
...FOR ME TO REACH?
LIKE THIS.
GOD, IT WAS CUTE.
HE'S SO CLOSE
SO CLOSE
Ahhh

# Episode 28

IN OCTOBER...

...MY SISTER GAVE BIRTH TO A HEALTHY LITTLE GIRL.

HER NAME IS MADOKA-CHAN.

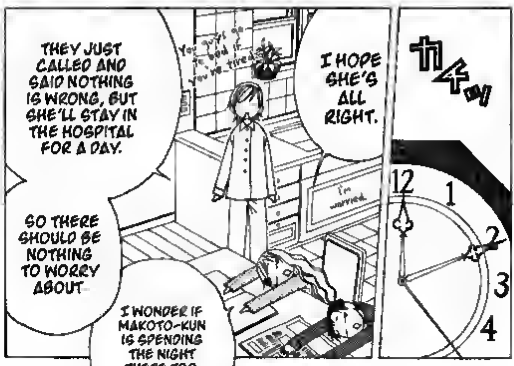
I'M THRILLED!!

V·B
AND, UM, SO...
MADOKA-CHAN ♡
...STILL LOOKS MONKEY-ISH...
...BUT SHE IS SOOO ADORABLE!! ♡
La la la la la ♪
"MONKEY-ISH"?
CONGRATULATIONS ON A SAFE DELIVERY
THANKS ♡
How is she doing?
SHE ARRIVED BEFORE THE DUE DATE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
DO YOU WANT TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY? DO YOU? HM?

TWO NIGHTS AGO.
AROUND 7 P.M.
IT WAS ALL IN TUNE WITH HIBARI'S PERSONALITY.
She came back home with her husband for the childbirth.
...FEELS KIND OF... WEIRD?
MY STOMACH...
The entire family together.
N-NOW MY STOMACH HURTS TOO.
AHHH! HIBARI!!, ARE YOU OKAY?!
MMM, I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
HIBARI, DOES IT HURT? DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?!
CONTRACTIONS?!
MAKOTO-KUN, CALM DOWN. DAD, GO TO THE BATHROOM.
ISN'T IT WAY BEFORE THE DUE DATE?

Panicking.

BYYYE.
OKAY, WE'RE HEADING OUT.
Be safe.
YEAH, I THINK I WILL.
I HAVE TO CALL THE HOSPITAL.
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL IF YOU'RE CONCERNED?
Calm mom.
Reset the phone.


THEY JUST CALLED AND SAID NOTHING IS WRONG, BUT SHE'LL STAY IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A DAY.
SO THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
I WONDER IF MAKOTO-KUN IS SPENDING THE NIGHT THERE TOO
I HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
I'm worried.
十七ページ
12
1
2
3
4

Yes, this is the last column. Thank you for sticking with me all the way.

Thank you very much to those of you who helped me and supported me, and to those of you who are reading this book.

The scene in Episode 26 in which Yukari yells to Ayaka from the balcony of his studio.

So here's Volume 5. I would love it if you all wrote me letters with comments and so forth.

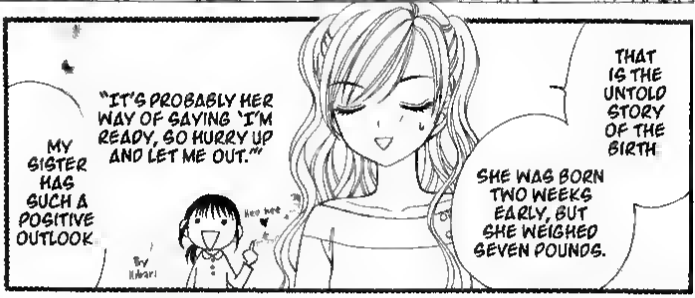
Banri Hidaka
c/o TOKYOPOP
5900 Wilshire
Blvd Ste 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

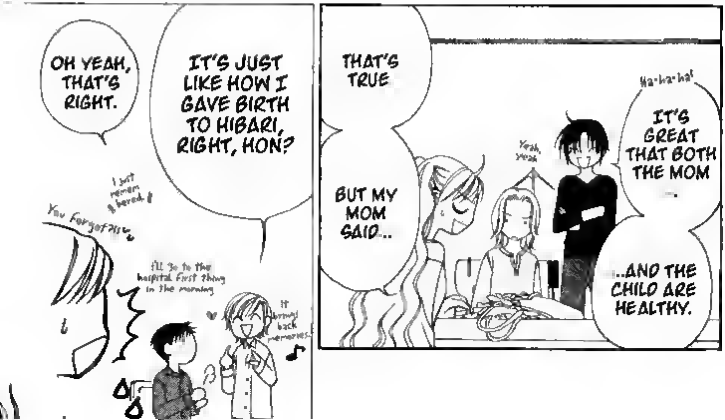
I'll be waiting for your letters.

Lately, I receive many letters from people who are married, or have children, saying, "I've been reading your manga since elementary school and middle school." I was really surprised!! A lot can happen in 10 years!! May there be happiness for all of you

YES, HELLO, THIS IS SHIROI.
HEY, HEY, DAD!
HOW WAS IT WHEN HIBARI WAS BORN?
EH?
OH, THAT REMINDS ME...
RRR...
OH, THE PHONE.
IT MIGHT BE MAKOTO-KUN.
MAYBE HE'S STAYING OVER.
Did he go back to his apartment alone?
OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
R R...
RRR
RRRR
WHAAAAT?!
...MOM?
A--

WHAAAT?!
Viva
Waaa!
She's out
A healthy girl
APPARENTLY, SHE HAD AN EASY BIRTH.
Her contractions began right after I talked to Makoto kun on the phone
Aah! I think it hurt
Hurry!
誕生!?
Birth?!

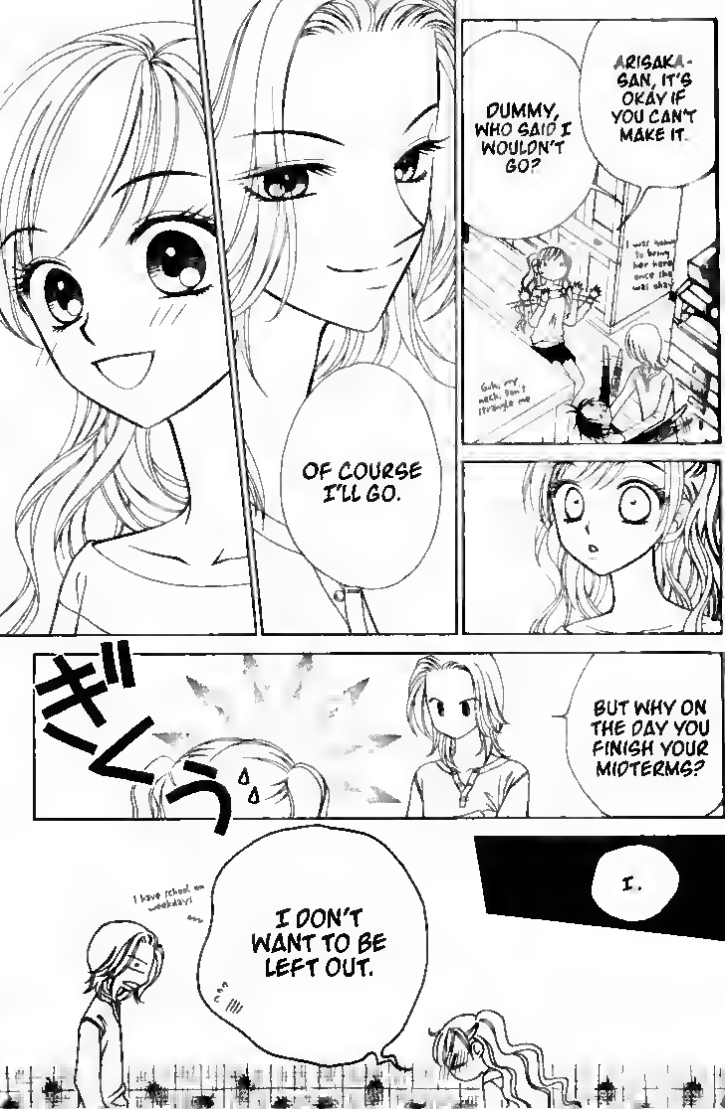

MY SISTER HAS SUCH A POSITIVE OUTLOOK
"IT'S PROBABLY HER WAY OF SAYING 'I'M READY, SO HURRY UP AND LET ME OUT.'"
Hee hee
By Hibari
SHE WAS BORN TWO WEEKS EARLY, BUT SHE WEIGHED SEVEN POUNDS.
THAT IS THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE BIRTH


OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S JUST LIKE HOW I GAVE BIRTH TO HIBARI, RIGHT, HON?
I just remembered!
You forgot?!
I'll go to the hospital first thing in the morning
It brings back memories
THAT'S TRUE
BUT MY MOM SAID..
Yeah, yeah
Ha-ha-ha!
IT'S GREAT THAT BOTH THE MOM
..AND THE CHILD ARE HEALTHY.

MY MOM HAD TERRIBLE MORNING SICKNESS AND I WEIGHED ALMOST NINE POUNDS.
I WASN'T SO EASY, APPARENTLY.
NO...
WERE YOU BORN EASILY TOO?
HA HA HA HA. ACROSS TWO GENERATIONS!!
THAT'S HUGE.
I KNOW.
I only screamed for half a day!
I love Hikaru-san's smile!
"AGEHA-CHAN!!"
HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE CALLED?
...SO WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER.
I HOPE MADOKA-CHAN GROWS UP FAST...
ISN'T IT EXCITING TO BE CALLED "CHAN" BY A LITTLE KID?
"MITSUYA-CHAN."
"YUKARI-CHAN."
OU GUYS NANT TO E CALLED "CHAN" TOO?
That isn't embarrassing for me at all.

DO YOU GUYS WANT TO COME OVER THE DAY I'M DONE WITH MY MIDTERMS?
OKAY, OKAY. ABOUT THAT ...
YEAH.
WE SHOULD GO VISIT WHILE THEY'RE NOT TOO BUSY.
HUH?
BUT WEEKENDS ARE BUSY, RIGHT?
IT'S MY SISTER'S REQUEST.
SO I THOUGHT YOU GUYS COULD STOP BY ON A WEEKDAY, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T STAY LONG.
SHE REALLY WANTS TO SEE BOTH OF YOU.
It's been so long.

ACK! THE RETURN OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT!!
だきっ♡
いや~
I'LL GO!!
YOU MUST BE JEALOUS. ♪
Hee hee
ARE YOU IGNORING ME? ARE YOU IGNORING ME?
what about our schedule, our schedule, our schedule?
I'LL STRANGLE YOU, JACKASS.
ぺ!!!!
Tch
Dive into my wide chest
さあっ
LUH, NO THANKS.
GO RIGHT AHEAD. ♡
Please don't take this seriously.
What are you trying, dang?


ARIGAKA-SAN, IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT.
DUMMY, WHO SAID I WOULDN'T GO?
I was happy to hang her hand once she was okay.
Gah, my neck. Don't strangle me
OF COURSE I'LL GO.
ぎくう
BUT WHY ON THE DAY YOU FINISH YOUR MIDTERMS?
I.
I have school on weekdays!
I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT.

BUT I DON'T BLAME YOU.
Just let me know your exam schedule
HA HA HA! WHAT KIND OF REASON IS THAT?
WELL, IT'S BE-CAUSE...
I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT VISITING.

RECENTLY...
OKAY.
WHATEVER. WE'D BETTER CHECK OUR SCHEDULE.
MY BODY ACTED OF ITS OWN ACCORD.
YOU DECIDED FIRST.
SO YOU ENDED UP DECIDING ON YOUR OWN ANYWAY
...MY HEART THROBS WITH EVERY MOVE HE MAKES.
IT MAKES ME HAPPY.
...ARISAKA-SAN HAS BEEN SO SWEET...
IT MAKES ME HAPPY, BUT...

BUT WE HAD SUCH GOOD CHEMISTRY.
HIS KINDNESS AND MY HESITATION ARE JUMBLED UP TOGETHER IN MY HEAD.
How do I unscramble...
...myself?
BUT ONCE EXAM WEEK STARTS, I WONT SEE HIM FOR A WHILE.
NOOO, I CAN'T. I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON WORK WHILE I'M WORKING.
I WILL SURVIVE THE TESTS!
OH?
OKAY.
Conclusion: I'm sorry I got carried away into Ageha-land.

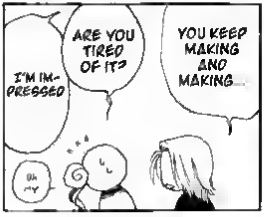
And then...
AFTER THE TESTS
DONG
DING
HEY!
YOU TWO GLOW WHEN YOU STAND NEXT TO EACH OTHER
YAY! WELCOME, BOTH OF YOU.
?!
I HAD TO RENEW MY LICENSE ANYWAY.
HA HA HA. NO, NO
SO I TOOK THE DAY OFF
COME IN, COME IN.
MAKOTO-SAN DON'T YOU HAVE WORK?
SENPAI, ARE YOU ON MATERNITY LEAVE?!

WELCOME, ARIGAKA-KUN AND MITSUYA-KUN.
I'M SORRY FOR HAULING YOU IN.
BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU BOTH.
MAY WE COME IN?
COME, COME
OH.

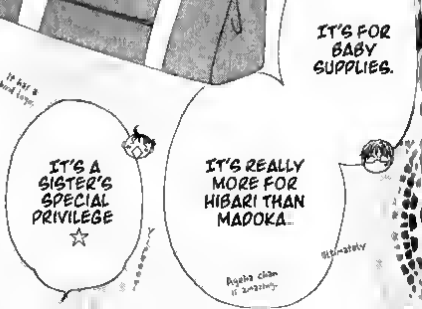
TWO WONDERFUL GENTLEMEN ARE HERE TO SEE YOU.
MADOKA..
THANK YOU.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME
Tee hee
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW BABY
ZZZZ
AWW, HOW CUUUTE.
SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE BABY PHOTOS OF MAKOTO-KUN.
ISN'T SHE CUUUUTE?
Even her soft scratch mittens are cute.
Bushy hair
REALLY? YOU THINK SO?
SHE HAS HIBARI'S LONG EYE-LASHES
OH YEAH, HER EYES ARE A LOT LIKE MAKOTO-SENPAI'S
YOU WANT TO BE A GREAT DAD SO YOUR DAUGHTER SAYS, "I LOVE YOU, DAD," RIGHT?
OH...
UH..

yeah, yeah
IT'S SO HEART-WARMING TO IMAGINE HER GROWING UP TO BE LIKE THAT.
She definitely will.
Hee hee
I like that age.
Hee hee
Escaping due to bashfulness
...I WAS JUST HOPING SHE'D GROW UP TO BE LIKE THAT.
Ahhh
I'll go make some tea.
Satisfied.
THEY CAN RECOGNIZE THINGS WITH DISTINCT COLORS.
UMM
SO WHEN BABIES FIRST START TO SEE
Gahh
SO I WAS WONDERING...
DID AGEHA MAKE THIS FLASHY BEAR OF MANY COLORS?
I LEARNED THAT FROM SOME TV SHOW, SO I FOLLOWED MY HEART AND HAD FUN WITH IT WHEN I MADE THIS BEAR.
Vague memory
Well no, I mean, the bear is cute and colorful.
I'll make another one in pastels.
Hee hee
AGEHA MADE LOTS OF THINGS FOR MADOKA. ♪
OH.
I see

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, YOU TWO
WHAT IS IT?
...SHE MUST HAVE INHERITED HIBARI'S LOVE FOR STUFFED ANIMALS!!
YES I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN BRING IT ON
BUT IT'S OKAY
EVEN IF WHAT I HEARD WAS WRONG...




On the surface, it's an extremely simple bag. However, the width and the functionality of the interior was designed to compensate for Hibari's carelessness



I love it...
Pant
HEY, LOOK AT THOSE TWO.
WHAT?
ISN'T IT...
...MORE THAN ENOUGH...
...FOR YOUR EXPERTISE TO BRING OUT THAT SMILE?

IT'S LIKE...

IT'S...

HIBARI-SAN, THIS IS A GIFT FROM BOTH OF US
OH, OKAY, OKAY. ♡
HEY, MITSU
...ARISAKA-SAN IS..
WHAT...?
WHAAAT?! ARE YOU SURE?!!
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
MAKOTO-KUN, MAKOTO-KUN!
THIS IS GREAT, HIBARI THANK YOU--BOTH OF YOU.
WHY DON'T WE OPEN IT?
OKAY.

H--
HOW CUTE!!
Baby trees
Oooh!
Happy tears!

LOOK, HIBARI.
THE FRILLS ON THE DRESS ARE LOVELY
THE HOODED CARDIGAN IS SO SMOOTH
SHE CAN WEAR IT WHEN SHE GOES OUT

HAND-MADE, RIGHT?!!
THE MOMENT WHEN OUR HARD WORK PAYS OFF.
YES, YES, THIS IS THE REACTION WE LIKE.

WE DESIGNED IT SO SHE COULD WEAR IT NEXT YEAR AROUND THIS TIME
Gosh.
Look, her eyes opened.
WE THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO ANTICIPATE NEXT YEAR
Um
I'm sorry I won't try to blow on your daughter
HIBA .
ARISAKA-KUN, MITSUYA-KUN...
THANK YOU.

I CAN'T WAIT...
...FOR IT TO BE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.
HEY, HEY, DON'T SEXUALLY HARASS MY SISTER.
HMM?
ヒソ
WELL YEAH, BECAUSE HIBARI-SAN...
...IS OUR IDOL.

ISN'T THAT GREAT, MADOKA?
IDOL?!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
C-COMRADE?
ALL THESE PEOPLE CONGRATULATING US
WE'LL CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY NEXT YEAR IN THESE CLOTHES.
Lovely!

WE SHOULD GET BACK TO THE STORE SOON
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?
HEH HEH ♡ I'LL GET THE DOOR
DING
DONG
ARISAKA-SAN?
OH, WHO COULD THAT BE?
THEY'RE HERE FOR YOU
HEY, MITSU
They change their uniforms in October
CONGRATU-LATIONS, HIBARI-SAN
TWO GUESTS WHO FINISHED THEIR TESTS ♪
MY, MY!
MAMORU-CHAN, NAGARE-KUN, LONG TIME NO SEE!!
LONG TIME NO SEE

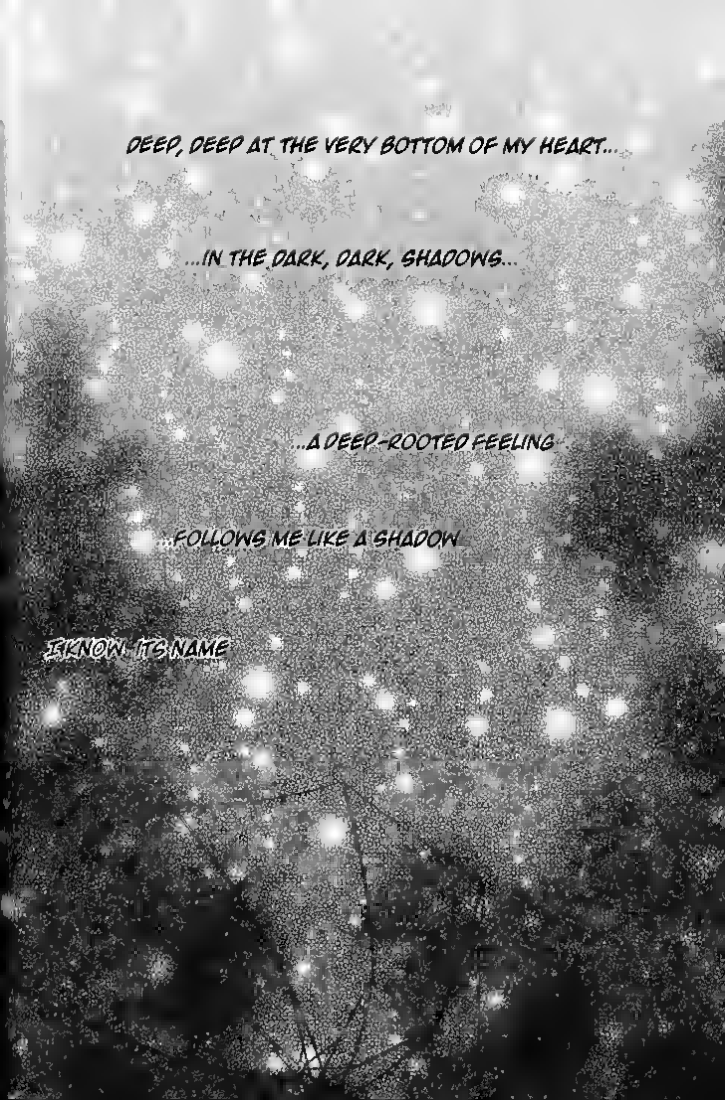
HELLO, ARISAKA-SAN AND KUROMINE-SAN'S OLDER BROTHER.
YOU GUYS ARE ATTENDING OUR SCHOOL'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL, RIGHT?
WHY IS THIS GUY HERE?!
Stay cool, Yukari!!
I'M SORRY.
HEY.
I FORGOT TO MENTION IT.
OH.
HUH?
YOU HAVE TO STOP BY MY CLASS, AGEHA-CHAN.
YOU SHOULD TELL ME THESE THINGS.
..SO I ASSUMED WE COULD GO TOGETHER.
YOU...
MY MIND WAS FILLED WITH WORK AND MAKING BEARS..
Ahhh...

I CAN'T SAY NO TO YOU.
PROMISE, OKAY?
REALLY?
WE'LL PLAY A GAME
IS IT HARD?
NO, IT'S EASY
EXCUSE US FOR STAYING SO LONG.
YUKARI-KUN, WE SHOULD GET GOING.
RIRIKO? YEAH, OKAY.
WE'LL BE BACK RIGHT AWAY.
WHAT?
THANK YOU FOR STOP-PING BY AT A BUSY TIME.
WE'LL COME AGAIN.
OK.
RING RING RING
EEK!

A-ARISAKA-SA--
SORRY, AGEHA. SEE YOU LATER.
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH ARISAKA-SAN?
Some kind of blood
WHAT?! IS THAT TRUE, AGEHA?!
Cough
N-NO!
I... IT'S...UN-REQUITED.
Oh my

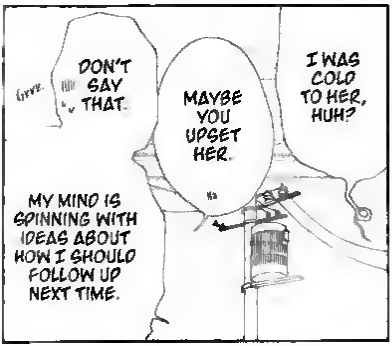
BUT IT'S STILL FUN, AND .
YES, UNREQUITED
BUT WAIT SOMETHING IS...
HUH?
BECAUSE RECENTLY
THE RECENT ARISAKA-SAN IS...
BUT...
..THIS IS LIKE
HUH?
NOTH-ING

# Episode 29


DEEP, DEEP AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF MY HEART...
...IN THE DARK, DARK, SHADOWS...
...A DEEP-ROOTED FEELING
...FOLLOWS ME LIKE A SHADOW
I KNOW ITS NAME

HA HA HA HA!
THAT WAS CHILDISH OF ME.
He's aware of it

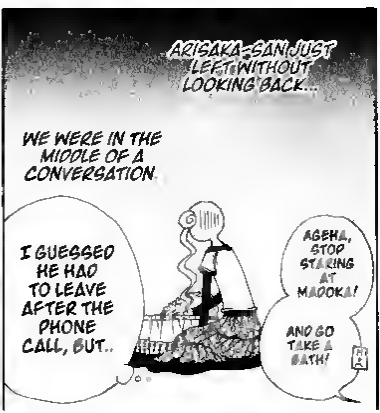
DID YOU BECOME NARROW-MINDED AGAIN?


DON'T SAY THAT.
MAYBE YOU UPSET HER.
I WAS COLD TO HER, HUH?
MY MIND IS SPINNING WITH IDEAS ABOUT HOW I SHOULD FOLLOW UP NEXT TIME.

DANGER SIGNALS?
WHENEVER I SEE THAT KID, IT JUST... BUZZES.

すごい気にしてるヒト。
Someone who is upset.

I DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT HOYO'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL...
...AND I EVEN BLAMED IT ON MY CRAFTS.
BUT NO, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE GOT FED UP WITH ME.

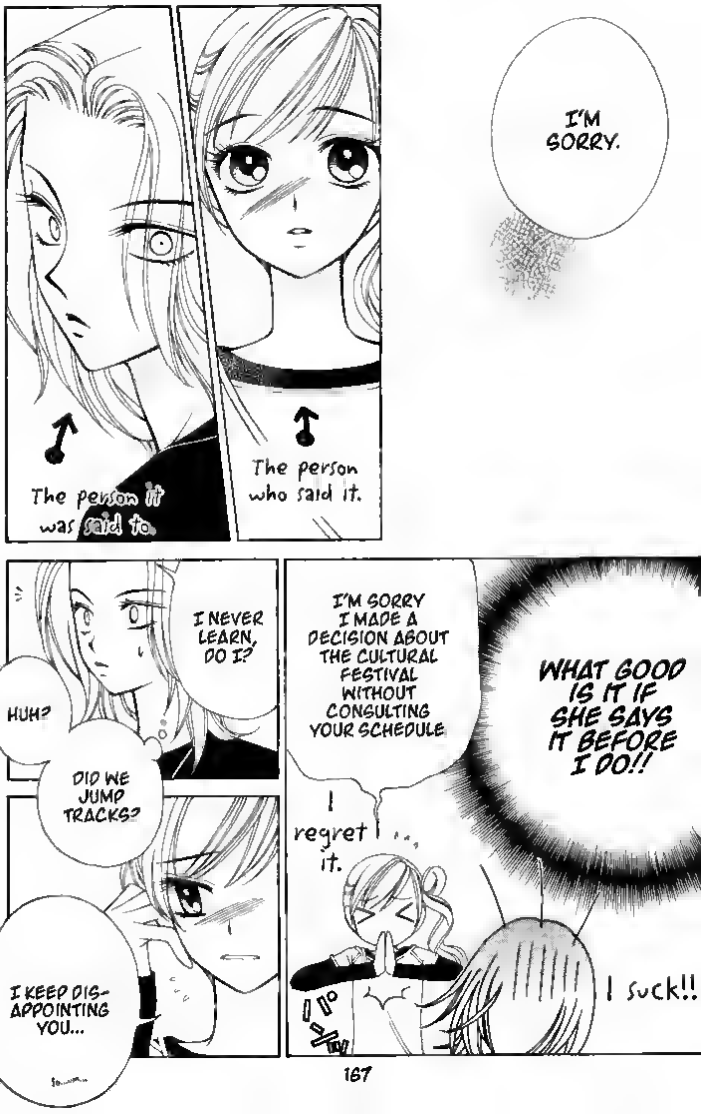

ARISAKA-SAN JUST LEFT WITHOUT LOOKING BACK...
WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION.
I GUESSED HE HAD TO LEAVE AFTER THE PHONE CALL, BUT..
AGEHA, STOP STARING AT MADOKA!
AND GO TAKE A BATH!

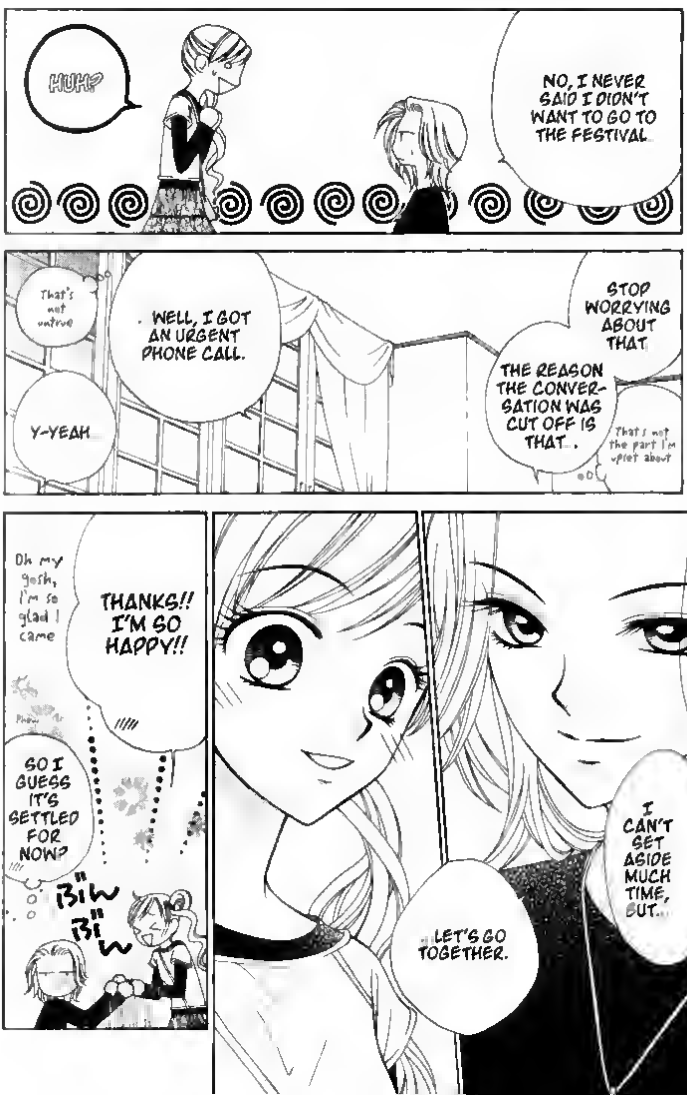
"SORRY, AGEHA, SEE YOU LATER."
"SORRY, AGEHA, SEE YOU LATER"
"SORRY, AGEHA, SEE YOU LATER",
Return, those golden days when I was flung and tossed around...
A tear
"SORRY, AGEHA, BUT I'M REALLY FED UP WITH THE WAY YOU ARE. SEE YOU LATER"?!
Poor interpretation

MITSU?
I'M ALMOST DONE WITH THIS..
..SO CAN YOU POUR SOME HOT T--
ガガガ
ガガガガ
ちょん
WHOA!!

GOOD...
...EVENING.
It really is
AH!
Back to reality
STIFFEN
...AND HE ASKED ME TO BRING YOU SOME TEA BECAUSE YOU'LL NEED IT SOON...
UM...I MET KUROMINE-SAN DOWN-STAIRS...
A little past 8 P.M.
Checking the time
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME WHENEVER YOU COME AT NIGHT!!
IT SEEMED LIKE A LOT TO ASK
YOU KNOW HOW I WORRY!

SO, WHAT IS IT?
UM..
SHE COMPLETELY IGNORED WHAT I SAID.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAME ALONE
BUT MAKOTO-KUN DROVE ME HERE.
DAMN, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FOLLOW-UP?
THAT GOT OFF TO A LOUSY START.
NO. IT'S JUST THAT.
. YOU SEEMED A LITTLE WEIRD WHEN YOU LEFT LAST NIGHT.
JUDGING FROM HER USUAL PATTERN...
I CAN'T REWRITE THE PAST.
SHE'S HERE BECAUSE SHE'S UPSET.
THEN THERE'S ONE THING LEFT FOR ME TO SAY.
I-IT'S NOTHING.
No chance to apologize.
A-ARISAKA-SAN?!
THAT'S RIGHT.


The person it was said to.
The person who said it.
I'M SORRY.
I NEVER LEARN, DO I?
HUH?
DID WE JUMP TRACKS?
I KEEP DISAPPOINTING YOU...
I'M SORRY I MADE A DECISION ABOUT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL WITHOUT CONSULTING YOUR SCHEDULE
I regret it.
WHAT GOOD IS IT IF SHE SAYS IT BEFORE I DO!!
I suck!!


HUH?
NO, I NEVER SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL.
That's not untrue
WELL, I GOT AN URGENT PHONE CALL.
STOP WORRYING ABOUT THAT.
THE REASON THE CONVERSATION WAS CUT OFF IS THAT.
That's not the part I'm upset about
Y-YEAH.
Oh my gosh, I'm so glad I came
THANKS!! I'M SO HAPPY!!
Phew
SO I GUESS IT'S SETTLED FOR NOW?
Biw Biw
I CAN'T SET ASIDE MUCH TIME, BUT...
LET'S GO TOGETHER.

GUESS WHAT, GUESS WHAT!
HIBARI AND THE OTHERS SAID THAT THEY WERE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU GUYS.
I NEED TO REFLECT...
They said they'll come visit here again!
Grow up dude.
I'M SO GLAD..
Hee hee.
..THAT YOU'RE BACK TO THE USUAL YOU.
Yipeee!
Dating parents
MY SISTER AND MAKOTO-KUN...
..WERE SO EXCITED EVEN AFTER YOU GUYS LEFT.
THOSE BABY CLOTHES WERE SO CUTE.
I want to make sure.

WHAT?
I I GUESS WE ARE.
YOUR FAMILY IS SO NICE.
OH!
BY THE WAY..
HA HA HA! THAT'S SUCH AN AGEHA-ISM.
OH! I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT MY SISTER IS MY SISTER
HUH? OH, KURO-MINE-SAN SAID..
ARISAKA-SAN?!
WHA ?
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU IDOLIZE MY SISTER?

I...
DID I SAY SOMETHING OFFENSIVE?
ガラン
Sigh
I... I COULD SAY...
...THE SAME THING ABOUT MAKOTO-SAN AND RIRIKO.
SHOULD I SAY IDOLIZE, OR SHOULD I SAY RESPECT ?
. FEEL AT EASE WHEN I SEE HIBARI-SAN AND MAKOTO-SAN

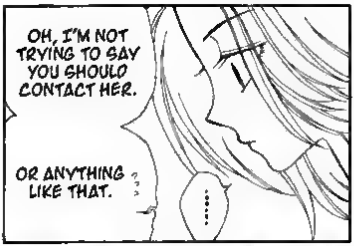
BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM
THERE'S A DEEP, DEEP CONNEC-TION
JUST LIKE MY DAD AND RIRIKO
SO THE CHILD THAT'S BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD
WILL BE BORN BLESSED

I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT WELL, BUT..
. IT MAKES ME HAPPY JUST WATCHING THEM.
THAT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
YOUR WORK HAS THAT SAME EFFECT, YOU KNOW.

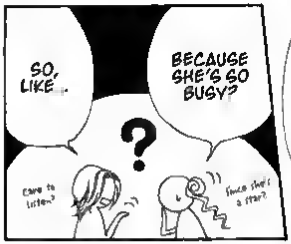
IT BRINGS HAPPINESS TO THE PERSON WEARING IT.
THE WEDDING DRESS
AND THE PEOPLE AROUND HER.
IT'S SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB.
I WONDER.
YOU DO.
DO I REALLY DO THAT?

HUH?
Hah.
HEY!
DON'T GET QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN I WAS WORRIED
HA HA HA!
WAAAAA!
WHEN I LOOK AT OTHER FAMILIES.
IT MAKES ME WONDER ABOUT MINE
HUH?
It's not funny.
Ha
ha
Your face was turning blue
ha
ha
ha
ha.
I'M KIDDING IT'S NOTHING
THANKS

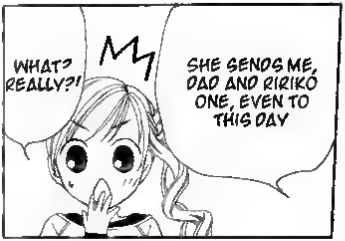
It's Ika.
His mom is an actress
PERHAPS... ISSUES WITH HIS MOM?!
You guys are like siblings
WEREN'T YOU ON GOOD TERMS WITH YOUR FATHER?
YOU HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH RIRIKO-SAN TOO.
SAKURA-KUN IS CUTE TOO.
And we got sidetracked! Ika? Or are we back on track?
Holding it in
ALL RIGHT, I WON'T BRING IT UP THIS TIME
BUT THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
HE'S GRATEFUL TO HER FOR GIVING BIRTH TO HIM
I'M GRATEFUL THAT I MET ARISAKA-SAN.
Refer to Episode 17
Coerced recommendation
HOKAAAY.
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT. SAY IT NOW.


OH, I'M NOT TRYING TO SAY YOU SHOULD CONTACT HER.
OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
Y-YOU DON'T PLAN TO ..
CONTACT YOUR MOTHER?
Cough

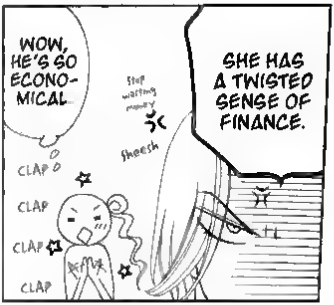
I DIDN'T...
... COME HERE TO DIG UP THE PAST.
ACK, I'M AN IDIOT
SILENCE
Ahhh!


SO, LIKE..
BECAUSE SHE'S SO BUSY?
?
Come to listen?
Since she's a star?

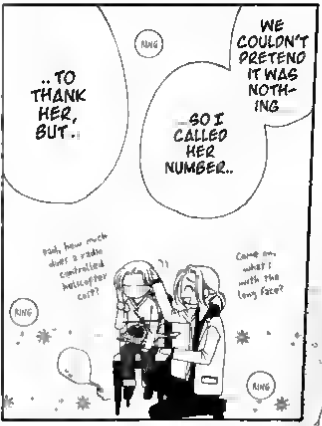
I CAN'T CONTACT HER..
NO...
IT'S MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT I CAN'T REACH HER
Know her contact information
She was think my.




A BIRTHDAY PRESENT ARRIVES...



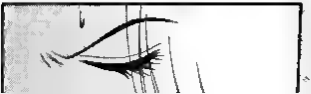

HAPPY BIRTHDAY


..TO THANK HER, BUT..
RING
WE COULDN'T PRETEND IT WAS NOTHING
..SO I CALLED HER NUMBER..
Psst, how much does a radio controlled helicopter cost?
Come on, what's with the long face?
RING
RING

...EVERY YEAR...

...LIKE CLOCK-WORK

That's nice



He had her number but no real address
EVER SINCE WE STARTED USING CELL PHONES...
...I'VE BEEN SENDING HER THANK-YOU TEXTS, BUT...
...OF COURSE, THERE'S NO REPLY.
The convenience of civilization.
Please leave a message
BEEP
This year, again?
WHAT'S UP WITH "I'M NOT HERE RIGHT NOOOW"♪!!
YOU'RE NEVER THERE!!
It doesn't make sense!
Arisaka-san has gone crazy
...SHE NEVER ANSWERED! AND NEVER HAS TO THIS DAY!!
I'M SO SORRY
AND THAT CONCLUDES THE NOT-SO-VERY-HEART-WARMING STORY OF THE ARISAKA FAMILY.
My bad. It's because I started talking about your family
I haven't seen her crazy like that for a while
It's a waste of time to get mad at her
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING
OH, BUT...
IT'S MY FAULT.
I SHOULD'VE HAVE BROUGHT UP A DIFFERENT SUBJECT.

HEY, ARISAKA-SAN, WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?!
HUH?
IT'S IN DECEMBER.
WHAT?! REALLY? WHAT DAY?!
THE 20TH
AS MY MOTHER
I'M SORRY.
Sniff
Why?
AS WHOM?
I have a bad feeling about this.
Ha.
YOU SAID THE SAME THING.
WOW, IT'S FOUR DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE.
I...
WAS BORN IN DECEMBER TOO.
I'm a Capricorn Blood type B.
DECEMBER 31ST!
NEW YEAR'S EVE!!
BUT UNDER A DIFFERENT SIGN
WHAT DAY?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH NEW YEAR'S EVE?
I GET TO EAT CAKE AND SOBA AT THE SAME TIME
CAKE...
I WAS BORN REALLY EARLY IN THE MORNING SO IT WAS MORE EXPENSIVE ANYWAY
What sign of New Year's Eve?
DO DOCTORS CHARGE MORE ON HOLIDAYS?
It's a national holiday.
HA HA HA HA SO YOU REALLY DID CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE
HA HA HA HA HA! SOBA CAKE!!
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THE CAKE IS MADE OF SOBA!!!
You're laughing too hard!!
I KNOW.
!
LET'S HAVE A JOINT BIRTHDAY PARTY IN DECEMBER!!
OH

.. HAVE PRESENTS LIKE WE DO FOR CHRISTMAS, AND GATHER AROUND A CAKE.
WOULDN'T THAT BE FUN?
WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING REALLY FUN!
COOK GREAT FOOD.
..YOU COULD..
.. LAUGH OFF ALL YOUR WORRIES.
AND THEN ..
MAYBE ..
ENOUGH WITH THAT!
BY MAKING A SOBA CAKE?
キイッ

BECAUSE I TOLD YOU THAT WEIRD STORY?
ARE YOU TRYING TO COMFORT ME?
AGEHA DOESN'T KNOW...
...WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
I want to know everyone else's birthdays! too
OH
DID YOU WANT TO BE COMFORTED?
SAYING THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY?
SO WHY IS SHE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE...

THROB

"WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO? CAN'T YOU TELL BY LOOKING AT HER?"

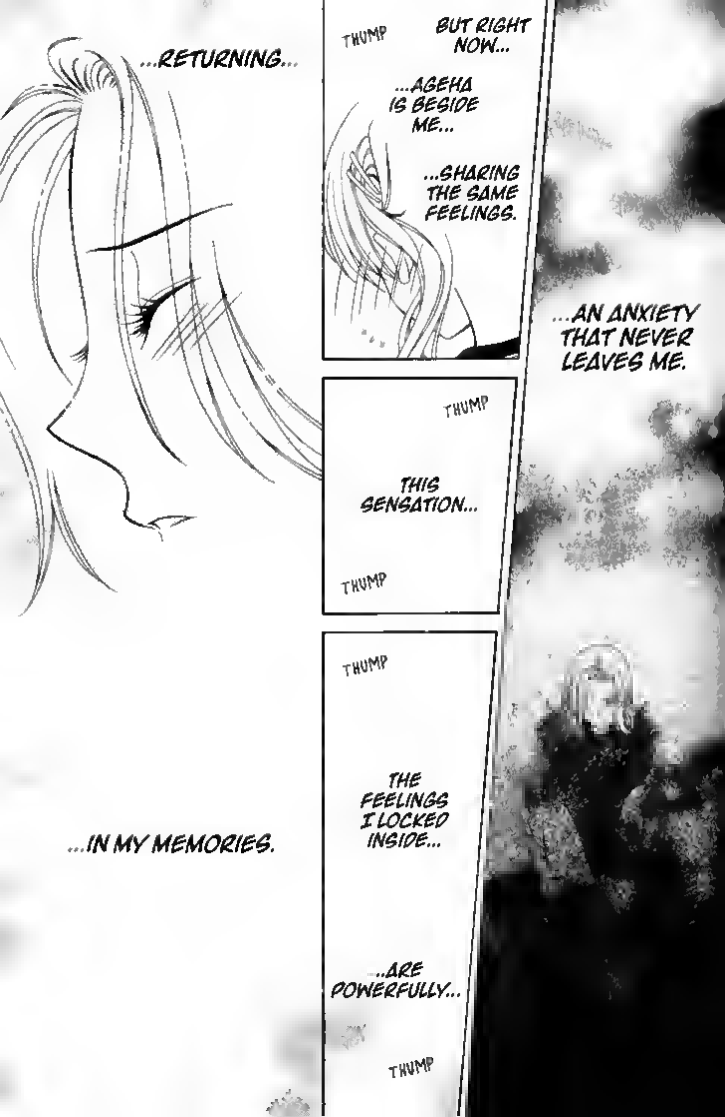
"YUKARI-KUN, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S LIKE 'THE BLUE BIRD?'"

"THE FAIRY TALE? THE ONE ABOUT HOW 'THE BLUE BIRD IS CLOSER TO YOU THAN YOU THINK' THING?"

IT DOESN'T EQUAL HAPPINESS, BUT...

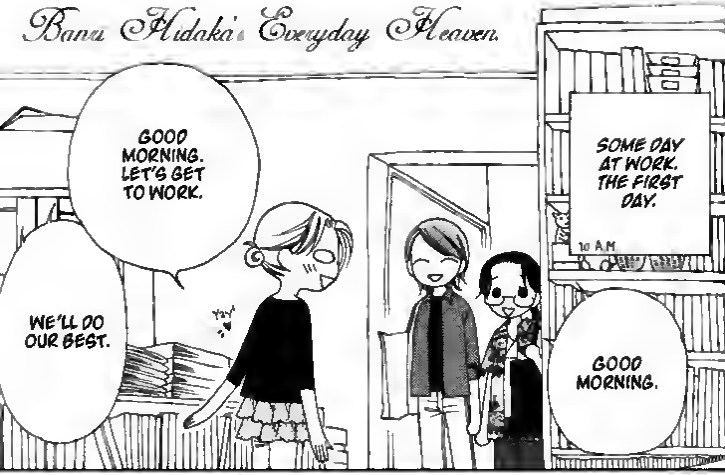
...WHAT IF I REPLACED IT WITH THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS?

DEEP...
DEEP.
IN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART..
IT ALWAYS STOPS ME.
IT'S...
THUMP


...RETURNING...
...IN MY MEMORIES.
THUMP
BUT RIGHT NOW...
...AGEHA IS BESIDE ME...
...SHARING THE SAME FEELINGS.
...AN ANXIETY THAT NEVER LEAVES ME.
THUMP
THIS SENSATION...
THUMP
THUMP
THE FEELINGS I LOCKED INSIDE...
...ARE POWERFULLY...
THUMP

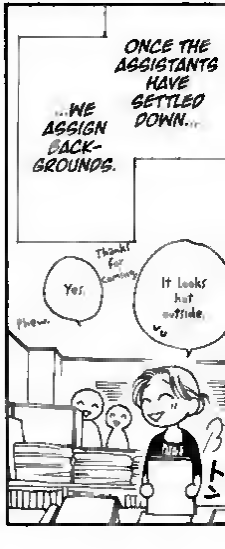
BUT AGEHA WON'T LEAVE MY SIDE.
AM I BEING OVERCONFIDENT?
CAN I BE SURE?
LOOK AT HER BLUSH.
HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED THIS BEFORE?
A--
ARISAKA-SAN.
THIS IS SEXUAL HARASS-MENT.
A RAY OF LIGHT.
I DON'T WANT TO LET GO OF HER HAND JUST YET.

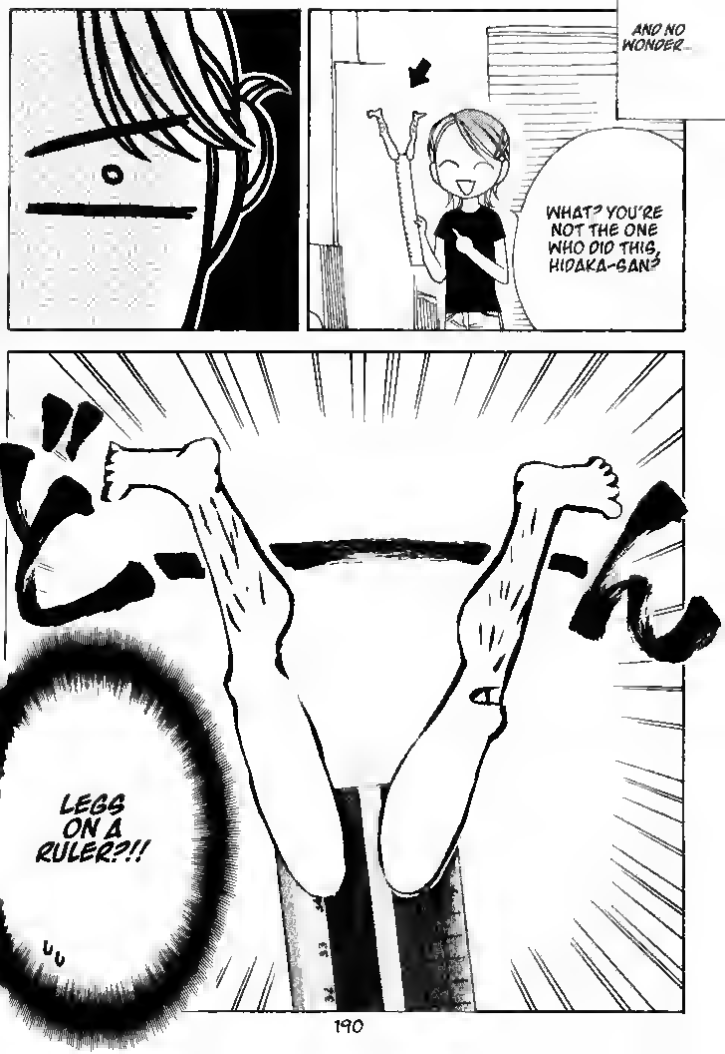
*V.B. Rose 5 / End*

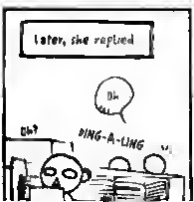


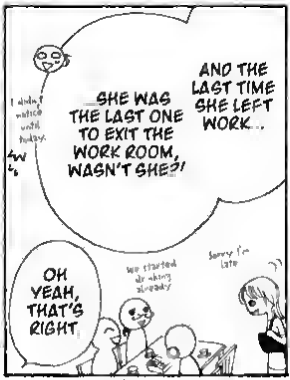

※In the first day, I have two attitude. By the third day, I have three.

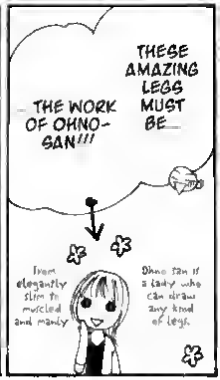
HUH?!
WHAT?!
WHAT LOOKS?!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA! HIDAKA-SAN, THE LEGS, THE LEGS!!
Ha ha ha
Legs?
YEAH, A FINE PAIR OF LEGS!!
I WAS REVIL-REVEL-BY THE SUDDEN STORM OF LAUGHTER.
It looks like the instrument in the Ouryuu-zeme




AND NO WONDER...
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO DID THIS, HIDAKA-SAN?
LEGS ON A RULER?!!





I didn't notice until today.
SHE WAS THE LAST ONE TO EXIT THE WORK ROOM, WASN'T SHE?!
AND THE LAST TIME SHE LEFT WORK...
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
We started working already
Sorry I'm late
Tea break


THE WORK OF OHNO-SAN!!!
THESE AMAZING LEGS MUST BE...
From elegantly slim to muscled and manly
Ohno can if a lady who can draw any kind of legs.

for the picture on the right, I photocopied the real thing and pasted it on

"I TOOK NOTE OF HER WORDS."
SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.
SHE TOOK US LITERALLY.
The text.
"LAST TIME AT WORK, WHEN MAEDA-SAN DROPPED THE RULER.."
THE RULER RAN AWAY ON ITS LEGS.
Hee hee hee.
Oh.
WOW.
What happened?
IT WASN'T OHNO-SAN?
NO, IT WAS THE HANDIWORK OF OHNO-SAN.
I LOVE THIS KIND OF WORK ENVIRONMENT!
Ha ha ha ha ha!
Let me take a picture of it with my cell phone.
By the way, the ruler still has three legs.
I...I CAN'T SPEAK SO CARELESSLY AGAIN.
They're really long...
I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN V.B. ROSE VOLUME 8!
It's important to gargle and wash your hands and face!!
PLEASE TRY NOT TO CATCH A COLD.
ALL RIGHT, SO I'LL GET A FLU VACCINATION THIS YEAR TOO!
Kana Nishikiori Everyday Woman / End